

UNMIT Gender Affairs Unit Quarterly Report, October-December 2007

A. Executive Summary

- 1.** In conjunction with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Office of the Secretary of State for Promotion of Equality launched the annual Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence Campaign, supported by UNMIT, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and International Organization for Migration (IOM). The campaign culminated on International Human Rights Day on 10 December. UNIFEM has, simultaneously, launched a campaign entitled "Men against Violence" which aims to have unequivocal statements from the country's leaders that: Violence against women is a crime and will not be tolerated.
- 2.** The work related to the revision and adoption of the revisions to the Penal Code and the draft Domestic Violence law occupied the Administration of Justice unit, UNFPA and UNICEF to a large extent in the current quarter. The amendments to the Penal Code have been adopted by the Council of Ministers. Parliament is to adopt a law for the adoption of the revision to the Penal Code by Decree without submission to Parliament for debate. Discussions are continuing to take place to fine tune the proposed Domestic Violence legislation. These have included a national consultation with the UN agencies and NGOs. It is anticipated that that draft bill may be tabled with the Council of Ministers in the first quarter of 2008.
- 3.** The UNDP Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Achievement Fund approved a three-year project of \$5.9 million on "Supporting Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights in Nation-building of Timor-Leste" to be jointly implemented by UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM and UNIFEM. The project will aim to reduce violence against women by addressing issues relating to sexual violence and abuse and to ensure protection, legal means to fight abuse, and access for victims to the justice system.
- 4.** In November, the Government and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) signed a technical cooperation project for 2008-09 aimed at strengthening the capacity of State institutions and civil society in promoting and protecting human rights, including those of women.
- 5.** UNMIT, UNIFEM and UNDP, in collaboration with Parliament, provided assistance to finalize plans for the establishment of a Gender Resource Centre at Parliament aimed to provide substantive support to the recently adopted Women Parliamentarian's Caucus, with intent to pursue issues to further women's empowerment and gender equality.

6. UN agencies are also providing support to the Government in the preparation of the second National Development Plan. UNMIT together with UNDP, UNIFEM, REDE FETO (a national women's umbrella NGO) and the Office of the Secretary of State for Promotion of Equality (SEPI) organized a one day workshop on the 14th December to discuss the integration of the National Women's Action Plan for the Advancement of Women and gender perspectives into the National Development Plan.
7. Preparation of the next five year (2009-2013) UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Timor-Leste began in November, jointly with the Government, NGOs, donor partners and the international financial institutions. The initial consultations have identified priority areas of democratic governance, sustainable growth, and basic social services, together with the need to address cross-cutting requirements relating to gender, youth, capacity development and human rights. The actual discussions were preceded by a preparatory workshop on human rights based approach (HRB) and results based management (RBM) of the process, in October 2007.
8. UNMIT, UNPOL and UNICEF have set up two Task forces with the participation of NGOs and the Ministry of Social Solidarity to address the issue of commercial sexual exploitation of children and under age girls.
9. UNMIT in collaboration with OHCHR assisted the Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice to establish an Advisory Council comprised of representatives of women, specially challenged persons, religious groups and private businesses by way of strengthening of the national mechanism for human rights protection and promotion of justice.

B. Policy/Operational Priorities for this Quarter¹

Support for and the strengthening of the Office of the Secretary of State for Promotion of Equality

10. Support for and the strengthening of the organizational capacity of the Office of the Secretary of State for Promotion of Equality (SEPI) remained a policy priority. The UNFPA Programme Manager for Gender Based Violence is posted at SEPI and continues to work in close collaboration with SEPI staff to promote interventions to eliminate violence against women. The interventions include efforts to promote the adoption of the proposed Domestic Violence Bill and the amendments to the Penal Code in relation to gender based violence. These efforts at enhancing the protection of women against gender based violence through gender justice and legislation is specifically supported by the work of the UNMIT gender justice officer and UNICEF.

¹ This should refer to any new developments or changes in the contextual environment of the mission, or priorities that build on or deviate from those identified in the previous quarter.

11. SEPI is further being supported by UNDP through the appointment of a full time international Gender Advisor to the Secretary State and an Institution Building Advisor. In addition, UNDP has further appointed two international Gender Advisors to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the National Parliament to assist in gender mainstreaming and incorporation of gender perspectives.

12. SEPI has todate some seventeen inter-ministerial gender focal points and thirteen gender focal points at the district level. The capacity building of the gender focal points continues to be a policy priority of SEPI. The integrated mission of UNMIT and the UNCT play a significant role in contributing to the capacity building of the gender focal points through SEPI.

13. Gender based violence, has become a major focus of both the Government partners and the United Nations Team and features prominently in most discussions related to gender and the empowerment of women. UNPOL priorities too have given special focus to gender-based violence cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, child abuse, abuse of commercial sex work and human trafficking. The Vulnerable Persons Unit (VPU) has been established in all districts, staffed by women police officers. These units attend to all reported cases of sexual and gender based violence. One third of cases filed for prosecution in the courts are gender based violence cases. The total number of reported cases of rape are 26 and domestic violence are 207 from January to December 2007. These figures have to be seen in the light of the fact that gender based violence is grossly under-reported.

14. Integration of the Women's National Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Timor-Leste and gender perspectives into the proposed five year National Development Plan for Timor-Leste (2008-2012) was a policy priority for this quarter. The government of Timor-Leste has taken important steps towards achieving gender equality. The Constitution of the Republic includes a non-discrimination clause and says that one of the fundamental objectives of the state is to promote equality of opportunities between women and men. Timor-Leste has also signed and ratified without reservation the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Optional Protocol, which in accordance with constitutional provisions becomes an integral part of domestic law.

15. The expert body established to monitor implementation of the Convention in States parties, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee), is particularly concerned with the status of the Convention in domestic legal systems. The Committee has advocated the incorporation of the Convention into national constitutions, as well as the implementation of the various rights in the Convention through legislation and incorporation into the National Development Plan. The CEDAW Committee has also recommended that any National Women's Plan of Action should not stand alone and should be integrated into the National development Plan.

16. The National Development Plan considers gender equality as a requirement to achieving poverty reduction. The Timor-Leste government has adopted a policy of

gender mainstreaming with a view to achieving gender equality through its programmes. The Office of the Secretary of State for Promotion of Equality (SEPI) under the Prime Minister provides technical assistance and training to strengthen the capacity of government to mainstream gender in all its programmes. SEPI has also played a lead role in the first state report on CEDAW, coordinating a consultation process which has included partners and stakeholders from the different government ministries.

17. The new transition programme of the Fourth Constitutional Government incorporates programmes specifically for women. The programme states that the Government intends to raise society's awareness about women's rights by focusing on the implementation of practices aimed at reinforcing the introduction of gender perspectives in the conception and assessment of national development policies and strategies.

18. The Transition Programme also states that efforts will be made to reinforce the capacity of intervention of organizations and groups acting on the defense of women's rights ...by granting them more resources for the development of activities in favour of women, against poverty, violence and discrimination, access to credit lines, professional training and employment, education, health and the development of revenue raising activities.

19. In designing a five year National Development Plan that is progressive and gender responsive it is necessary to identify the gaps, and measures to reduce or bridge the gap between men and women, boys and girls in the specified sectors.

C. Ongoing Activities:

20. During this quarter Timor-Leste and UNMIT had several high level visits in December underscoring the international community's continued interest and involvement in Timor-Leste and the work of UNMIT. A Security Council mission, the Under Secretary General for DPKO and the Secretary General of the United Nations took time to meet with women's NGOs in Timor-Leste and to listen to their challenges. The meetings facilitated by UNMIT and UNIFEM assisted the women NGOs to outline their areas of concern and in which they further expected the support of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste. Areas of challenges identified by the women include Security Sector Reform, Implementation of Resolution 1325, Gender based Violence, IDPs, Capacity building of Women in Politics, Access to Health Care, Education, Information and Services, Socio-economic and Infrastructure Development and Capacity Building of Women's NGOs

21. UNMIT in collaboration with OHCHR assisted the Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice to establish an Advisory Council comprised of representatives from women, specially challenged persons, religious groups and private businesses by way of strengthening of the national mechanism for human rights protection and promotion of justice. UNMIT HRAJ and OHCHR have carried out various capacity building activities

for the Office of the Provedoria for Human rights and Justice including training on women's human rights. UNIFEM has provided training on CEDAW.

22. On the 10-11 October 2007 UNMIT hosted a national consultation to discuss the DPKO/DFS guidelines to enhance the role of women in electoral processes, organized by UNMIT's electoral component with the assistance of the Best Practices Office and the participation of the Office of the Senior Gender Adviser. The national consultation was supported by the Best Practices Section of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (PBPS), the Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) and UNIFEM Timor Leste. The objective of the consultation was to convene both women and men of Timor Leste who played an active role in enhancing women's participation in the recent elections and invite them to discuss the relevance of the draft guidelines, especially Section D of the guidelines, to the local context, identify any gaps and suggest any additions. The overall purpose of the validation workshop was to evaluate the draft guidelines in light of the successful 2007 electoral process in Timor Leste and provide feedback and comments based on the elections held in Timor-Leste since restoration of independence.

23. Women's political participation is being strengthened through exposure to parliamentary processes of other countries. UNFPA sponsored three women parliamentarians to the Fifth Asian-Pacific Women Parliamentarians and Ministers Conference in Beijing in November 2007. Women ministers and parliamentarians continue to make their mark in national politics and administration through strong interventions. UNMIT, UNIFEM and UNDP, in collaboration with the Parliament, provided assistance to finalize plans for the establishment of a Gender Resource Centre at Parliament aimed at providing substantive support to the recently adopted Women Parliamentarians' Caucus, more particularly to pursue issues to further women's empowerment and gender equality. UNIFEM jointly with the NGO Forum Tau Matan and the Ministry of State Administration's National Directorate for Public Administration (DNAT), conducted workshops on Timor-Leste's Constitution with women representatives in suco councils.

24. With the support of UNFPA, SEPI organized a one-day referral workshop for organizations providing support services for victims of gender-based violence. 63 participants attended this workshop including representatives from local NGOs, women's organizations, community leaders, IDPs, UNPOL/PNTL, prosecutors, defence lawyers, judges, health care workers, the Church and UN. Presentations from key partners on medical, psycho-social, legal and the role of the police were given. The purpose of the workshop was to make participants aware of individual roles and responsibilities in the referral network and also to develop a set of 'best practices' for referrals in the absence of formal protocols and procedures for referring victims.

25. A further series of 10 trainings on the nature of gender-based violence, awareness-raising on the referral network of support services, as well as sessions on human trafficking was organized by UNFPA with the support of referral partners and IOM. All trainings took place in Dili and specifically targeted IDPs, camp managers and

communities. Further training with IDPs, including the districts, is scheduled to take place in 2008.

26. UNFPA, in conjunction with UNICEF, held a 10 day training workshop on 'Caring for Survivors' in Timor-Leste for those health care workers, legal actors and the police who work with survivors of gender-based violence. The training was divided into two components of legal and medical. Participants from Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea attended the training workshop.

27. UNFPA and SEPI, organized a one-day workshop on 20 November 2007 on the draft Domestic Violence Legislation for members of civil society and the UN. The latest draft of the law with recent amendments was presented in addition to presentations on the nature of gender-based violence in Timor-Leste, the history and background to the law. The most recent version of the law has also been presented to the Minister of Justice and members of Parliament Commission A - Legal and Commission E - Gender. UNFPA and SEPI also presented commentary to UNMIT on necessary proposed changes to the draft Penal Code that will affect the implementation of the Domestic Violence Legislation once passed.

28. PRADET, a local NGO providing emergency shelter and trauma counseling at its Safe House in Dili National Hospital signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Marie Stopes Foundation to provide Sexually Transmitted Illnesses testing and treatment for victims/survivors of gender-based violence.

29. PRADET, in conjunction with Alola Foundation, provided training on gender-based violence and trauma support to health care workers and community leaders in the 5 districts of Baucau, Los Palos, Viqueque, Ermera and Manatuto.

30. UNFPA has agreed with the Secretary of State for National Security, who has responsibility for the PNTL, to donate some much-needed equipment to the Dili district Vulnerable Persons' Unit. These items which include a camera, office equipment and a vehicle will greatly facilitate the investigative work of PNTL. The equipment will be formally presented to the PNTL in an official handover in early 2008.

31. In conjunction with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women the Office of the Secretary of State for Promotion of Equality launched a series of activities under an annual campaign of sixteen days of activism to end violence against women. The sixteen days culminated on the 10th of December, International Human Rights day. UNIFEM has, simultaneously, launched a campaign entitled "Men against Violence" which aims to have unequivocal statements from the country's leaders that: Violence against women is a crime and that violence against women will not be tolerated.

32. The annual 16 Days Campaign against Violence took place in Timor-Leste between 25 November and 10 December 2007. The theme of this year's campaign was "Prevent Exploitation. Stop Violence." A total of 29 events took place all around the country and activities included workshops, seminars, TV debates, radio broadcasts, peaceful marches,

music, theatre and dance performances. There were also activities held specifically with youth groups, IDPs, the judiciary and legal profession, immigration and police (counter-trafficking awareness raising) and the Church. Information and education campaign materials on the referral network of support services and anti-trafficking were also distributed at these events.

33. Some of the most outstanding work on gender based violence is being carried out by an NGO, the AMKV (ASOSIASAUN MANE KONTRA VIOLENCIA) (the Association of Men against Violence), Timor-Leste.

34. “AMKV’s vision for Timor-Leste is to build a democratic, independent and just society, free from violence and discrimination. It aims to raise awareness about gender based violence and eradicate such violence from all levels of society. It seeks to achieve this by running community based education and discussion forums, undertaking advocacy and building an effective network to bring together community groups, NGOs and the Government.

35. AMKV was formed as a voluntary national network of 20 men in June 2002 following a workshop facilitated by two Nicaraguan members of the Nicaraguan men’s group Puntos dos Encuentros. 38 men from across the country attended the workshop and 20 became the loose coalition of the AMKV. AMKV was formally recognized as an NGO in 2005. It’s membership consists of voluntary community based organizers from villages (sucos) and hamlets (aldeias) in seven districts. The national office and staff are based in Dili.

36. AMKV members realise the important contribution a men’s organization could make to the work of the women’s NGOs in pursuit of gender equality and ending gender based violence in Timor-Leste. AMKV’s members have often had to endure ridicule and being made fun of by other men, for working on issues related to gender based violence and especially domestic violence. The critics question the manliness of working in the area of gender equality and gender based violence saying that it goes against the Timorese traditional culture.

37. AMKV counter the arguments by asserting that Timorese culture and masculine identities do not have to be synonymous with patriarchy, violence and discrimination against women. The organizations stance and goal is that Timorese traditional culture can and should change in order to support the pursuit of gender equality.

38. AMKV’s advocacy efforts at the National level includes, contribution to the drafting and lobbying for the adoption of the Domestic Violence legislation, lobbying the Ministry of Education to remove gender bias from the school curriculum. Every year AMKV alongside with UNFPA and the Government organize activities for the 16 Days of Activism against Violence campaign. In 2006, they organized cooking classes for men and community workshops on prevention of gender based violence across the Baucau region.

39. On 5 December 2007, AMKV organized a national workshop jointly with UNIFEM and other national women's NGOs and the Office of the Secretary of State for Promotion of Equality on "Involving Men in Ending Violence against Women". The Ministers of Health, Justice, Education and the Secretary of State for Security were invited to participate in a panel discussion on ending violence against women.

40. AMKV's Community education programme involves an innovative approach in that they get into mikrolets, the local communal minibuses, and begin to engage the passengers, often men, in conversations related to gender based violence and gender equality. Other community education programmes involve large communal gatherings and meetings to discuss thematic issues related to gender equality and gender based violence.

41. AMKV also encourages individual reflection and peer mentoring thus challenging individual perceptions, views, prejudices and practices relating to gender equality in daily lives. On the flipside, AMKV members also recognize that changing their own views and behaviour, in directions that challenge social norms, requires the support and mentoring of other similar minded dedicated men."

Information adapted from "Mapping the Pursuit of Gender Equality" NGO and International Agency Activity in Timor-Leste by Anna Trembath and Damian Grenfell.

42. Investigations into gender based violence cases – Officers from National Vulnerable Persons Unit (NVPU) are assisting the District VPU officers with investigations of complex issues or cases that are of a multi-jurisdictional nature. Investigations of cases of a sensitive nature are handled by the NVPU. As part of the quality-assurance process, NVPU members have been attending to each of the 13 district VPU offices to conduct a review with the expectation that such visits and regular interaction with the district VPU officers will ensure a consistent and satisfactory approach to GBV investigations.

43. Informal evidence from partners indicates that approximately 50% of cases of gender-based violence are children in Timor-Leste. Forms of gender-based violence that are reported most commonly by Government, UN agencies and civil society partners working in the Protection Sector are: child prostitution (sexual exploitation), child trafficking (for sexual purposes) both domestic and international, early marriage, and child sexual abuse in the home and at school as well as sexual assault ("rape"). The vast number of gender-based violence cases, including against children, are unreported. Without access to effective services and due to the shame and stigma associated with such crimes, victims are usually too afraid to come forward. Timely and accessible services (legal, health and psychosocial) for child victims are extremely limited and rarely extend to rural areas. Only a handful of social welfare professionals are officially active in Timor-Leste.

44. Database Development – In order to better track trends surrounding reported GBV cases, a database is being created by the NVPU. With this, the District and National VPU will be able to compile comprehensive statistics.

45. Assessment of commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking of women and girls– With the aid of UN agencies and partner NGO’s, UNPOL officers are conducting an assessment on the current situation surrounding commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of women and girls in Timor-Leste. This will serve to better inform UNPOL management of this issue and enable them to take appropriate immediate action.

46. Training Development – UNPOLs are preparing a training course on “Gender awareness and Sexual Offences” for PNTL officers. The course will be a generic one and participants would include PNTL members from recruit to sub-inspector levels. UNPOL Gender focal point and Police College trainers are involved in the course development. In addition, UNPOLs are preparing for PNTL investigative training course on “Gender Based Violence” in line with the recommendation of GBV working Group. The course, aimed at increasing the skills of the PNTL officers in investigating GBV crimes, will target participants primarily attached to Vulnerable Persons Units. This training course will focus on basic skill development such as interviewing, evidence collection, and utilizing partnerships.

Timor-Leste’s UNDAF process and the contribution of the Gender Thematic Working Group

47. Preparation of the next five year (2009-2013) UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Timor-Leste commenced in November, jointly with the Government, NGOs, donor partners and the international financial institutions. The initial consultations have identified priority areas of democratic governance, sustainable growth, and basic social services, together with the need to address cross-cutting requirements relating to gender, youth, capacity development and human rights. The actual discussions were preceded by a workshop in October 2007 on human rights based approach (HRB) and results based management (RBM) of the process.

48. The UN Gender Thematic Working Group will intervene with the three UNDAF working groups drafting under the themes of “Promotion of culture of democracy and support to democratic governance; Basic social services, covering primary education, health, water, and Sanitation and Sustainable growth, with specific focus on youth and rural livelihoods” to support integration of gender perspectives.

Gender Mainstreaming within UNMIT

49. Gender mainstreaming within the mission continues with regular induction courses, in English, Portuguese and Tetum, on gender awareness and gender mainstreaming for all new staff members to the mission; twice monthly and more frequently when there is a large influx of new staff such as UNPOL following a rotation exercise. Three members of staff from UNMIT, UNPOL and the UNFPA have undergone a training of trainers

course, from 22-25 November 2007, on gender equality in peacekeeping for senior managers, in order to enhance the capacity of the integrated mission to further the efforts to integrate gender perspectives into all of the policies, programmes and activities. A one day training programme is presently being put together by the Senior Gender Adviser and the three trainers for all senior managers of the mission and will be made available for the UNCT as well. It is envisaged that the training which will be available from early 2008 will be for everyone including the UNCT and the UNDAF Teams.

50. Regular monthly policy and programme discussions take place on mainstreaming gender throughout the Integrated Mission's policy, programmes and activities and the UNDAF process through the Gender Thematic working Group which includes all the various components of UNMIT, UNPOL and the United Nations Country Team.

51. There are four dedicated gender advisers in UNMIT at present. A Judicial Affairs Officer working on gender justice issues within the Administration of Justice Support Unit, a Gender Affairs Officer attached to the Serious Crimes Investigation Team, a gender officer attached to the HIV/AIDS unit and a Senior Gender Affairs Adviser heading the Gender Affairs Unit.

Gender Balance within UNMIT

52. Gender balance within UNMIT as of 22 November 2007, consists of a civilian component of 338 international staff (123 women), 793 national staff (131 women), and 1493 police officers (88 women) as well as 33 military liaison and staff officers (0 woman). Discussions are underway to improve the gender balance at all levels.

D. Partnerships and Coordination

53. Most of the gender work undertaken by the integrated mission of UNMIT and the UNCT is carried out jointly with the relevant ministries of the Government of Timor-Leste and in particular SEPI and the women's NGOs. Much of the work related to preventing gender based violence is carried out in collaboration and in harmony by the abovementioned entities. Similar efforts have also been undertaken by UNMIT, UNDP, UNIFEM, REDE FETO (the umbrella organization of women's NGOs) and SEPI to integrate gender perspectives and women's concerns into the National Development Plan 2008-2012, to be drafted by early 2008.

54. Technical assistance and mentoring support continues to be provided to the National Division of Social Services of the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS) by UNFPA and UNICEF. Through this support, a Policy on Case Management for Vulnerable Groups, including children, was developed and efforts are underway to support its implementation. The Policy includes references to the function and mandate of DSS, principles, definition and practice, and a Code of Conduct in relation to children. To implement a community-based approach to child protection, UNICEF and MSS are joining forces to support the establishment of Child Protection Networks at district level

to monitor and follow –up child protection concerns as well as strengthen local referral pathways for example between schools, police and Social Services. Support was also provided to ensure greater coordination and collaboration between social services, police and NGOs working for children’s protection (e.g. Ba Futuru, Christian Children’s Fund, FCJ Street Shelter) and ensure appropriate referrals to Social Services for case management.

55. UNICEF has also been supporting the counseling and support of child victims of violence and abuse, as well as children living or working on the streets. With the onset of the crisis, UNICEF’s work in the Child Protection Working Group extended to emergency psychosocial support activities in certain camps, transitional shelters, and areas of return and re-integration for displaced children and caregivers.

56. UNICEF is also working with community theatre groups to perform dramas that discuss children’s protection in four districts. Such activities aim to raise awareness about children’s right to protection, where to report violations of their rights as well as how to seek appropriate support and care.

57. UNICEF’s Child Protection partners in Timor-Leste are diverse; including the National Division of Social Services (DNSS) under MSS, the Ministry of Justice and the UNPOL/ PNTL, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of State Administration, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Church, local and international NGOs and CBOs, as well as UN agencies.

Setting up of Two Task Forces to address child and of girls under the age of majority forced into commercial sexual exploitation

58. The problem of commercial sexual exploitation, particularly those of under aged girls, has been highlighted during this quarter. Commercial sexual exploitation of young girls has stemmed from poverty in outlying villages, resulting in families sending their daughters as young as 13 years old to Salele to earn money working as sex workers. The girls are all under 18 years of age. The younger the girl, the higher the price charged. Many of these girls, who have become pregnant, are sent back to their family to give birth, leave the child in the care of the family and return to Salele to continue working as sex workers. The situation is known throughout Timor Leste, including to Dili taxi drivers who are known to have passed on the information regarding Salele to potential clients. It is believed that the problem is not confined to Salele and may be prevalent in other districts as well.

59. Through the efforts of the Catholic Church and in particular Sister Jessy and Father Francisco in Selele, many of these girls are being rescued, placed in a “safe house”, given training in handcraft skills for up to one year and returned to their family with an alternate means to generate an income. Some of the girls are also victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence.

60. Investigation and prosecution of rape and sexual assault cases have met with a number of difficulties. For example, notwithstanding the burden of proof required, the standard of Police investigation needs to be improved; the role of traditional justice does not work in favour of the victim; and legal assistance is needed to help gain a conviction.

61. The problem was highlighted by UNPOL and the Military Liaison Officers based in the districts. UNMIT together with the participation of UNPOL, UNIFEM, UNFPA and the Ministry of Social Solidarity has set up two task forces to address this issue. One under the UNPOL management and the other an Inter-agency Task Force to design strategic interventions on behalf of the under age girls forced into commercial sex work. The task forces focussed on the case in the area of Salele, a border town in Suai. As part of the intervention UNMIT Human Rights Unit is to draft a legal note on the existing legal framework on prostitution and child prostitution for clarity. This will then be circulated to all within the UN system and to UNPOL for dispatch to the districts. UNPOL (Police Commissioner's Office and the NVPU) will brief units in districts on the current legal framework and ensure clear directive to all units that gender-based violence crimes, including child prostitution, must be investigated with due diligence and priority. Training will be provided for those not clear on the process. UNPOL (Police Commissioner's Office and the NVPU) to follow up on existing cases in Salele and report to the Prosecutor General if required, ensuring that due process is followed.

62. The Task Force will further oversee a public information campaign to be conducted on existing laws and available services. UNMIT's Human Rights Unit is to support advocacy on case follow-up, given their human rights monitoring mandate and links to Judicial System Monitoring Process and the Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice Office, together with the Ministry of Social Solidarity.

63. UNPOL, especially members of the VPU are working in cooperation with UN agencies, NGO's, and National Government Departments, and National NGO's. While investigating cases, NVPU works with UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNMIT Human Rights Unit, Alola Foundation, Fundasaun Timor Hari'i, and Department of Social Services. There are a number of other local organizations that play a key role in victim advocacy and care.

Collaborative efforts to integrate the National Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Timor-Leste and gender perspectives into the five year National Development Plan 2008-2012

64. On the 14 December 2007 UNMIT together with UNDP, UNIFEM, REFE FETO and SEPI organized a national workshop on integrating the women's national plan of action, gender perspectives and women's concerns into the national development plan 2008-2012.

65. REDE FETO and its member organizations are key partners in promoting gender equality and have undertaken various efforts including organizing the first and second National Women's Congress which have produced the Platform of Action for the

Advancement of Women. In 2000 the women of Timor-Leste adopted a Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women at the First National Congress of Women of Timor Lorosae held in Dili. The Platform for Action was the first attempt to analyse the situation of Timorese women and to devise a policy and strategies for their empowerment. Some of the strategies and policy priorities suggested are still valid today. The workshop's objective was to see how some of their aspirations may be integrated in the National Development Plan to be developed by the Government.

66. The workshop provided an opportunity for government and civil society organizations to participate in a dialogue towards identifying key priority issues of gender concern and adopting a coherent and coordinated gender strategy for incorporation into the next National Development Plan. The civil society organizations from national and district levels who participated in the workshop were able to have a serious input into the drafting of the five year National Development Plan and an opportunity to discuss issues proposed under the Women's National Plan of Action which may be of benefit to women and girls under the National Development Plan. It also provided an opportunity for policy and law makers to examine how international human rights law in particular CEDAW, can be used at the domestic level to achieve equality for women and girls under the nine specific areas of the proposed National Development Plan, particularly in removing gender discrimination, gender gaps and eliminating gender based violence.

67. More particularly, the workshop assisted in assessing how the NDP may be made to ensure that women and girls are guaranteed their rights to equality and non-discrimination in all areas proposed under the NDP and developing a consensus on the issues of concern to women and girls in Timor-Leste for integration into the NDP and the utilization of the international human rights norms contained in the CEDAW Convention for promotion of gender equality.

68. The workshop helped identify key priority issues under the nine sectors for action by the technical level working groups of the NDP Drafting Committee., namely (i) Social Services: Healthcare sub-sector; Education and Training sub-sector; Social Welfare sub-sector (ii) Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (iii) Infrastructure, Natural Resources and Energy (iv) Private Sector Development (v) Governance - Public Sector Management (vi) Pillars of State (vii) Security and Justice (viii) Youth, Sport and Culture and (ix) National and Civil Defence and External Relations. The outcome of the discussions will be submitted to the Technical Committees for the Drafting of the National Development Plan.

69. Approximately 80 NGO representatives from women's NGOs in Dili and the Districts who are members of REDE FETO and other non REDE FETO women's NGOs participated in the workshop, together with senior officials from SEPI, the Secretary of State for Promotion of Equality and the Vice-Minister for the Ministry of Economy and Development under whose jurisdiction the National Development Plan is being drafted. Other participants included women parliamentarians, gender focal points and gender advisers.

E. Key Achievements and Impact Analysis

70. Some of the notable key achievements for this quarter are as follows:

- A *coordinated* government and community-based approach to monitoring and addressing the situation of children and the girl child in displaced camps and host communities (“Emergency Child Protection Support Teams”);
- *Advocacy campaigns* promoting children’s protection which will be expanded to include an inter-agency campaign to “Stop Sexual Violence” in 2008
- *Capacity-building* of concerned NGOs providing community-based protection and rehabilitation services in cooperation with authorities (e.g. “Ba Futuru”)
- *Legislation and procedures* related to gender-based violence (e.g. UNICEF working together with UNFPA and SEPI on support for the upcoming Domestic Violence legislation, Rules of Procedure for Police on “Children at Risk”)
- Increased dialogue at community level about child protection, especially the girl child, including protection against gender-based violence, through the establishment of Child Protection Networks and conducting community theatre;
- *Strengthened collaboration* between police, social workers and community organizations to prevent child abuse and respond to children in need; and
- Enhanced *technical skills and professional capacity* of social workers and community organizations providing services for children’s protection.
- Development of *internal guidelines (ROP) for the Police* to investigate crimes committed by children and against children;
- Development of *procedures for case management* of child victims, offenders and children at risk for the Division of Social Services within the Ministry of Social Solidarity linked to other service providers as well as the Ministry of Justice;
- Ongoing *technical skills and capacity-building* for key actors from all pillars of the justice system such as the development of a mentoring programme for social workers, carrying out training for police officials and prison guards on child protection and juvenile justice as well as including child rights and justice for children in the training curriculum of future prosecutors, public defenders and magistrates

71. With the help of NGO’s and UN agencies, UNPOLs have carried out awareness training of the focal points of GBV in IDP camps in Dili and Baucau and it is too early to analyze the impact of activities to date. Statistically, there has been little change in the rate of GBV cases. However, strong working relationships with partners have been developed and it is anticipated through collaborative partnerships the situation surrounding GBV in Timor-Leste will improve.

An update on Achievements and Activities of components, agencies, funds and programmes of the Integrated UN mission in Timor-Leste.

72. The HIV/AIDS Unit of UNMIT has integrated gender in nearly all of its activities. Gender is closely related to HIV/AIDS because women are more vulnerable and are easily infected by HIV/AIDS. The HIV/AIDS Unit conducts training for all UN staff and

is further working with the Government on prevention of HIV/AIDS. There is a Peer Training programme in the Ermera prison which is the only female prison in Timor-Leste. The HIV/AIDS Unit has one gender officer, who plans to develop more programmes for women. . The Unit has further advocated to make female condoms available for UNMIT female staff. UNMIT also strengthened its HIV/AIDS awareness programme. An HIV/AIDS session is included in the Mission's induction course in which 827 personnel have participated as of end of the year 2007. Out of 15 trained peer educators, eight are women. 70 condom dispensers have been installed by UNMIT at various UN facilities. In November 2007, voluntary testing and counseling became available for UN personnel. Unfortunately, the 'Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) to prevent HIV infection is not available in Timor-Leste. There is now a widespread awareness on the risks involved and precaution that has to be exercised to avoid risk of HIV/AIDS infection.

73. The Conduct and Discipline Unit (CDU) has a specific mandate to receive reports, investigate and pursue any allegations of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and any other type of misconduct from UN personnel. There are a few cases that the CDU is presently investigating. There are two cases of men harassing women and one of a woman harassing a man. The CDU had a recent workshop on transactional sex for the mission. There is ongoing collaboration with a local NGO, the Alola Foundation to provide training on transactional sex in Timor-Leste and to alert the public on reporting mechanisms. There are regular trainings on SEA and on the work of the CDU conducted by the Integrated Mission Training Centre (IMTC) with the support of CDU, and other mechanisms of awareness in place such as the check in - check out process and advocacy materials.

74. Training of NGOs on women's human rights is being carried both in Dili and in the districts. The Human Rights and Transitional Justice Section (HRTJS), together with the protection working group suggested the creation of a system for reporting cases by local NGOs of sexual exploitation and abuse. UNDP is entering information of cases (not including police cases) into a database on SGBV so that an analysis can be made on the pattern of the problem and to adopt a systematic approach. The monitoring team of the HRTJS and the Gender Justice Officer from the Administration of Justice Unit has begun to work with the VPU to address issues related to GBV and SA. HRTJS is also tracking GBV cases in the justice system to see how they are handled by the formal legal system and the traditional conflict resolution system. This information on GBV cases will be sent to the Gender Justice Officer of the AJU for analysis of the patterns and potential recommendations on systemic solutions. Most of the cases are not referred to the VPU because the cases are generally taken to the traditional system for adjudication rather than formal judicial system. The Secretary of State for Promotion of Equality is lobbying for the adoption of the domestic violence law. HRTJS is pursuing the adoption of the domestic violence law with the Ministry of Justice.

75. Domestic violence may not be purely resolved through a legal or justice approach alone, it needs a holistic approach. The Justice Unit is assisting the Government to realize a vision of the formal and traditional justice system and work with civil society. It is not

only important to have a legal framework it is necessary to build national capacity to deal with the many dimensions of domestic violence. The many actors and approaches sometimes confuse the Ministry of Justice. It is also necessary for the UN mission to speak with one voice and adopt a uniform advocacy approach.

76. The Public Information Office (PIO) has worked closely with UNIFEM on the campaign to end violence against women under the slogan “Men against Violence”, producing video clips and posters. The campaign was launched in November in conjunction with the sixteen days of activism to end violence against women which ran for 3 weeks and ended on UN Human Rights day. UNMIT has a radio programme every Saturday from 6.30 pm which provides useful means of disseminating information. PIO has been producing programmes on women, and portraits of women in the regular weekly radio programme as well as in the weekly newsletter. It also has multimedia shows (photo and radios) on various issues including gender. The PIO has produced a multimedia show on the work of the Vulnerable Persons Unit (VPU), which has been well received.

77. WFP has a solid commitment to gender equality. There is a concerted effort to promote food security targeting women and girls. Supplementary feeding is carried out for pregnant women, lactating mothers and in schools to encourage the retention of girls in schools. Food distribution is also carried out in IDP camps to ensure women’s access to adequate food. Efforts are also being made to ensure food security at the household level. WFP has recruited female staff to be trained to address household food security. All the data collected by WFP is sex disaggregated.

78. UNDESA’s programme does not have a specific module on gender. UNDESA’s programme is focused on Community Based Management of Natural Resources and includes training and capacity building in various fields on Suco level (Water and Natural Resources Management, Agricultural practices, Training in Community Development Planning and more). UNDESA actively encourages women (alongside of men) to participate actively in decision making processes and all other activities of the programme, in order to build their capacity and skills for their future benefit.

79. Following the completion of the Programme for Enhancing Rural Women’s Leadership and Participation in Nation Building (PERWL) under the Rural Development Package (RDP) funded by the European Commission (EC) on a cost-sharing basis which was administered by UNDP and executed by UNIFEM in July 2007, UNIFEM is now preparing for the next suco elections in 2008-2009. Through PERWL, UNIFEM and its partners had provided support to increase women’s participation as voters and candidates during the phased village elections in 2004-2005 advocating the concept and principles of transformative leadership.

UNIFEM’s follow up programme PERWL II aims to carry out:

- an assessment of the participation of currently-serving women representatives in the suco councils;

- capacity building efforts to prepare women to actively participate as candidates, voters and electoral officials during the forthcoming suco elections (and if it materializes, also for the election of mayors in 2009) using the concepts of transformative leadership;
- continued training on strengthening the role of women leaders in the suco council together with elected men representatives, using the training modules and materials developed by the National Institute of Public Administration (INAP);
- further strengthening of technical skills of the women leaders on areas as reflected in the affirmative actions that they have earlier indicated during dialogues with national women leaders (with inputs from PERWL); and

Strengthening of local structures in support for women's agenda and linkages between national and women representatives in the suco councils.

80. UNPOL trains PNTL on GBV including domestic violence; collects statistics on GBV, SE&A, and creates awareness on GBV and DV. Violence committed in the district is generally resolved by the traditional adjudication system. UNPOL is trying to educate the women about using the regular justice system. On the evening of Wednesday 2 January 2008, the UN Police (UNPol) Drug Taskforce, Dili District Police, and the Timorese National Police (PNTL) raided two bars in Dili as part of a successful operation to crackdown on activities related to illegal immigration, the sale of drugs, and possible human trafficking. At the Mona Lisa Bar, police found evidence of drug usage and identified eight females who were detained for identification purposes, in connection with investigations into illegal immigration and possible human trafficking. At the Moon Bar, 13 women and seven men, all foreign nationals, were detained for identification purposes related to investigations into the trafficking of women. The managers of both bars were arrested. UNPOLs are fully apprised of precautionary measures to be taken by the police to protect the identity of under-aged boys and girls and of women victims of trafficking if detained, that they must not be treated as criminals but must be accorded the internationally agreed and accepted standards of treatment of victims of trafficking. IOM will be consulted to deal with the repatriation of these victims as appropriate.

81. The Serious Crimes Investigation Unit has faced considerable challenges in convincing the Prosecutor General to recommence the investigation of crimes including gender based crimes, committed during the conflict of 1999. There have been signs that the investigations may begin soon after the signing of the requisite Memorandum of Understanding. When it begins its investigation of cases from the 1999 conflict, the Serious Crimes Investigation Team plans to place special emphasis on gender based crimes and in identifying the gamut of gender crimes committed. Serious Crimes also plans to work closely with relevant partners in efforts to assist victims seeking legal and other forms of support.

82. Studies on commercial sex work in Timor-Leste- There have been two known recent studies that have been undertaken by NGOs funded by UNFPA and UNIFEM on prostitution. The UNFPA study done by FTH focuses on reproductive health of sex workers in Dili while the UNIFEM study covers Covalima and Bobonaro and a validation exercise with the community has just been completed. Both are in various

stages of finalization. It is also known that the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS has engaged the University of New South Wales to carry out a larger study on both male and female sex workers and the uniformed forces. ILO has just completed a study on child labour which has a component on child commercial sexual exploitation. These studies have served to highlight the seriousness and circumstances of under age girls and boys being subject to commercial sex work and the risks that they are exposed to.

F. Lessons Learned and Challenges

Security Sector Reform

83. The Security Sector reform process in Timor-Leste is to commence with an extensive review of the Security Sector which shall include the police (PNTL) and the army, (FFDTL), Ministry of Security and Ministry of Defense, Justice and the prisons. The review will be inclusive of women and women's NGOs in a consultative process at the national, district, suco and aldeia with focus group discussions. The involvement of women would strengthen and empower the process to deal with security sector issues more efficiently, inclusively and comprehensively. One of the gender issues in connection with uniformed forces is that of abandonment of families especially women and children by members of the uniformed forces. This has been raised as a matter of concern in several forums. The review, inter-alia, will examine the circumstances of the families of uniformed agencies to ascertain the cause of such abandonment of women and children.

84. Securitizing the environment for women through the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women by means of gender sensitization training on women's human rights and gender based violence is one established strategy. This strategy is presently being implemented.

85. The Security Sector Reform will in addition promote gender based security through addressing GBV cases by giving them priority once they are referred to the Office of the Prosecutor General and be dealt with in an expedient manner. At present, the length of time taken to process a case involving domestic violence and/or sexual assault is on average 2 to 3 months. Police have to wait for the Prosecutor to consider the facts before he/she requests further statements/evidence gathering or issues an arrest warrant. This procedural delay adds to the perception among the public that the formal justice system is slow and doesn't work. It also does little for overall security in that, in the meantime, perpetrators are free to offend again.

Strengthening the Vulnerable Persons Unit (VPU) to deal with gender based violence.

86. The Vulnerable Persons Unit (VPU) is the unit specially staffed by women police officers and tasked with dealing with all gender based violence cases. Adequate resource in terms of financial support and human resources with both men and women in the unit remains a critical challenge. Greater support for the National VPU is especially needed in

the districts and greater liaison/cooperation between the District and National VPU needs to be encouraged. Further training for VPU, indeed all police on GBV is required, especially in light of the forthcoming reforms to the Penal Code and Domestic Violence Legislation. More skilled specialists and experts in dealing with gender based violence cases are urgently needed for the units. Some training has been ongoing over the past few years and UNFPA is planning more training at the Police Academy in 2008.

87. In addition, an independent ongoing evaluation of the PNTL Vulnerable Persons Unit, supported by UNICEF, has highlighted the need for deploying additional officers to UNPOL with training and experience in dealing with gender-based crimes, particularly given the Unit's critical role in protecting women and children who continue to bear the brunt of violence. Of course, further efforts are needed to address gender-based violence at all levels, including through training of all PNTL and UNPOL officers on the special needs of women and investigative techniques for gender-based crimes as well as through improving victim access to judicial recourse.

88. The frequent turnover of UNPOL officers remains a challenge. As each experienced UNPOL officer departs mission, his or her corporate knowledge also leaves. The trust they have built up with partner agencies also leaves. This requires their successors to start out one step behind. More effort needs to be spent developing a method to pass on corporate knowledge and experience so that they are not lost.

Support and institutional strengthening of the security institutions

89. The recruitment of women police officers remains a challenge. The registration, screening and certification programme for the PNTL proceeded in accordance with the "Policing Arrangement" concluded by the Government and UNMIT in December 2006. On 1 December 2007, the registration of all officers was completed. Of the 3,116 officers (569 women) registered, 3,110 had completed the screening process as of the end of 2007. Of these 3,110 screened officers, 186 (42 women) successfully completed both the provisional certification course and the six-month mentoring process and became fully certified officers. Another 1,354 (240 women) are provisionally certified (having passed the provisional certification course) and are in the mentoring stage. On the other hand, 377 (22 women) require further investigation due to allegations of criminal acts or human rights violations which will be adjudicated by the Timorese-led police evaluation panel. The remaining 1193 screened officers are either undertaking, or waiting to take, the provisional certification course. At present the composition of the PNTL has 18.2 per cent women which translates to a number of 582 out of 3197 in the total police force. The crisis of 2006 did not affect the participation of women in the Police Service. However, it is further necessary to strengthen gender issues in the PNTL, which is to some extent being covered under the security sector reform plan.

90. In order to encourage greater participation of women in the police force it is necessary to conduct further research on women's working conditions within the PNTL. Sexual harassment is stated to be a deterrent to women entering the police force.

91. Special attention will be given in 2008 to train more women police in HIV/AIDS to cope with the feminization of the epidemic. Women victims have been found to be more at ease to talk about sexual violence or SEA with another woman.

Advancing gender justice

92. The work related to the revision and adoption of the Penal Code, law on witness protection and the Domestic Violence law occupied the Administration of Justice unit of UNMIT, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF to a large extent in the current quarter. Several continued discussions have been taking place on the proposed Domestic Violence legislation including a national consultation with the UN agencies and NGOs. It is anticipated that that draft bill may be tabled with the Council of Ministers in early 2008. The draft legislation has taken years to develop and progress through the legislative process. Other challenges of the gender justice team include the design and implementation of appropriate response mechanisms such as safe houses, referral mechanisms, assisting with support, training and capacity building of the VPU with prompt investigation and prosecution of the gender based violence crimes.

93. The use of traditional justice systems creates complications when enforcing GBV laws. The traditional justice systems are adjudicated by village elders on conventional customary norms devoid of any legal basis. The police are not always notified of the case and the matter is dealt with at the local level. Several months or years of public education will be required to overcome this difficulty in having GBV cases heard by the courts. UNMIT is assisting the Ministry of Justice to draft a legal framework to formalize and regulate the traditional justice mechanisms which continue to function outside the formal legal system.

IDP camps and gender based violence

94. The protection of women and girls in IDP camps from gender based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse has emerged as a gender issue. There are now some estimated 100,000 and 30,000 registered IDPs. At the recent meeting of the women NGOs and the Security Council members this issue of gender based violence in IDP camps was raised as a concern. During a recent VTC with NY the need to strengthen the VPU in this regard was discussed. The number of incidence reported or known do not represent the actual incidence as clearly these cases are underreported and judging from what happens in camp situations in other countries the incidence in the camps is suspected to be much higher.

95. The Gender Based Violence Programme of UNFPA has worked with REDE FETO to set up women's committees in all camps and the NGOs are monitoring the situation. However the NGOs are stretched as some of them have to return to the districts and there is no continuity. There is a need to expand the numbers and enhance their capacities for monitoring of gender based violence in the camps. This is hampered by lack of resources. IOM has gender mobile teams visiting the camps. The vehicles and staff have a high casualty turnover. Replacement has proved to be a challenge. The resource constraint and

lack of NGO capacity maybe overcome when the programmes proposed under the MDG Fund for Promoting Gender equality is in place.

96. UNICEF has child protection monitoring teams in the camps and mobile support teams which are working well. The VPU needs to be strengthened with regard to monitoring the camps. Fokupers and other human rights groups are supporting the monitoring of the camps. Monitoring is not the issue but responding and providing services to the needs, is a serious constraint, due to the lack of capacity and resources. The legal system needs to be responsive and functioning effectively to meet and deal with the demands of gender based violence cases. Greater staff support for local NGOs, like Rede Feto and the Women's Committee in the IDP camps to carry out monitoring of GBV incidents that take place, especially in the districts is necessary. The mechanisms for reporting back such incidents and identifying appropriate follow up through the VPU needs to be strengthened.

97. In 2008 a nationwide advocacy campaign will be undertaken targeting camps, schools and homes on child abuse, trafficking and gender based violence. The UN Gender Thematic Working Group has agreed to set up a small task force to design a matrix of the services being provided to the camps on gender based violence to assess what else needs to be done.

G. Conclusion

98. According to UNICEF reports, continued violence and instability, displacement, poverty and a lack of economic opportunity have led to increased levels of violence in families and communities, including gender-based violence against women and girls. Children are increasingly forced to adopt exploitative behaviours such as child commercial sex work, living and working on the streets in crisis-affected areas. Even before the crisis, chronic poverty and vulnerability in Timor-Leste, discriminatory attitudes and practices against children and low service reach in rural areas led many children especially girls to experience various forms of violence and abuse in Timor-Leste. Although serious efforts to address all forms of violence against children, including gender-based violence, are being carried out, they are far from adequate. National capacity to provide support services for children in need is low and awareness about children's rights and especially the rights of the girl child and protection is urgently required at community level.

99. The UNDP Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Achievement Fund approved a three-year project of \$5.9 million on "Supporting Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights in Nation-building of Timor-Leste" to be jointly implemented by UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM and UNIFEM. The project aims to reduce violence against women by addressing issues relating to sexual violence and abuse and to ensure protection, legal means to fight abuse, and access by victims to the justice system. It is hoped that this programme will reverse some of the concerns referred to above.

100. In November in conjunction with Human Rights Day, UNMIT Human Rights and Administration of Justice released a report on human rights and developments in Timor-Leste for the preceding year August 2006 to August 2007. Whilst the report recognized the important gains in fundamental human rights such as political freedoms, freedoms of speech, assembly and religion, monitoring and protection of fundamental human rights, the report also highlighted the challenges related to realizing economic and social rights such as housing, adequate standards of living, domestic and gender based violence, access to justice particularly for women and the rights of IDPs. Promoting economic development and thus economic and social rights of the people of Timor-Leste has loomed as an important concern and priority of the mission. There is widespread acknowledgement of the fact that economic development and youth employment are two critical factors, advancement of which would lead to greater stability and lasting peace for Timor-Leste. Infrastructure and the attendant economic development in the rural areas is pivotal for the economic empowerment of women.