



Baucau training aims to increase food security

A mobile chicken tractor is just one of the innovations introduced at Baucau. FAO held a three-day training of trainers on animal breeding at Fatumaka School. The training focused on pigs and poultry production techniques such as feeding and housing systems, selection of reproductive animals, animal health and vaccinations.

During the hands-on training, the participants built a portable chicken house called a "Chicken Tractor" and also built "houses" for pigs. The veterinarian trainers from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries covered topics like how to identify healthy pigs, disease symptoms and the right mix of food for pigs.

"The training is to build capacity in animal breeding," said Leovogildo Belarmino, an FAO training organizer based in Baucau. "The aim is to promote livestock as an income source among Timorese farmers."

The training was part of the preliminary phase of a food security project that FAO has been implementing in Baucau district for the past two years. It is a Spanish funded project.



Portable chicken house built during the FAO training.
» FAO Photo/Nichola Hungerford

The training was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Faculty of Agriculture of the National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL).

Training participants included village livestock workers and extension workers,

veterinary clinic staff from Laga and Venilale sub-districts and a Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) (former GTZ) local office representative together with three students from the Faculty of Agriculture of the UNTL.

Saving lives through traffic safety education for children



Dili police are teaching children how to avoid being harmed in traffic accidents.
» UNPOL Photo/ Jorge Barroso

The Dili police taught the children how to ride their bicycles and tricycles in a 'play while learn' outdoor simulation activity. The

Dili Traffic Unit and Community Policing organized a programme at Dili Portuguese School recently. This was one of the series of

programmes under which the officers would go to a number of schools in Dili in the first phase over the next six months.

"We showed them pictures related to safe driving and possible areas which can lead to accidents," said community policing officer, Werner Araujo Miquelino da Silva. "The goal is to prevent accidents especially when children are pedestrians or passengers in vehicles."

The police painted a miniature city in the school compound featuring traffic signs, traffic signals, streets, sidewalks, intersections, crosswalks, pedestrian crossings and parking lot. The police showed the children how to cross roads properly and not to ride bicycles on the wrong side of the road.

Conceicao Godinho, the school principal said the zebra crossing often misleads the students.

"We appreciate the Units' efforts to teach the basic rules of traffic to children," said Godinho. "This will assist the children in developing a road traffic sense."



Strengthening PNTLs response to domestic violence

Tackling domestic violence against women and girls is one of the Government's top priorities and prevention is crucial to long-term change. One significant initiative in this regard was the PNTL training. The training strengthened the Timorese police officers response to domestic violence incidences.

The UNMIT trainers travelled to the remote districts of the country like Baucau to conduct trainings.

"We have to work together to change attitudes in order to eliminate violence against women and girls and to make it clear beyond a doubt that any form of violence against women is unacceptable," said Alberto Gusmao, the PNTL squad commander and a training participant.

The police officers learned about gender equality, domestic violence and application of the domestic violence law in Timor-Leste. The training also assisted in developing and maintaining effective partnerships between the Timorese Police and other agencies/ NGOs with a role in preventing/responding effectively to domestic violence.

The number of reported domestic violence cases has increased this year. This indicates that the public has become increasingly



Training on domestic violence in Baucau.
» UNMIT Photo/Cesaltino B. Ximenes

aware of the issue and are more confident that police will intervene.

There were 438 incidences of domestic violence in 2010, representing 13.5% of the total cases reported to the police in Timor-Leste according to the Vulnerable Persons Unit and PNTL.

"We wanted to show with action, rather than words, that we were serious about improving gender-based violence," said Laura Maria de Fatima, a gender focal person from the justice section at PNTL in Baucau.

Leprosy no longer a public health threat in Timor-Leste

Leprosy, a chronic disease once endemic in South East Asia, has been largely eliminated from Timor-Leste. The disease has caused the disfigurement of millions of people mainly in the developing world.

"I have the honour to declare the elimination of Leprosy as a public health issue," said José Ramos Horta, President of Timor-Leste, in an official ceremony. "But we must not be complacent, we must continue to keep an eye on the few remaining cases, so that they too are completely treated and are able to reintegrate in society."

The World Health Organization (WHO) distributes for free the multi-drug therapy that fights the disease. Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, WHO Deputy Regional Director for

South East Asia, had only praise for the local government.

"This is a significant milestone for the country and congratulations are due to the Government for their continued and consistent efforts towards the elimination of leprosy," said Dr Khetrpal. "WHO is committed to eliminating the disease in the three remaining endemic districts of Oecusse, Baucau and Viqueque."

In 2004, there were 491 cases of leprosy per 10,000 people registered in Timor-Leste. Last year, these figures dropped dramatically to less than one case per 10,000 people, which is what it takes to consider the country free from the leprosy threat.

The major partners that started the programme to eliminate leprosy in 2003 were WHO, Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, The Nippon Foundation, and The Leprosy Mission International.

The fact that the incubation period for the disease can reach up to five years has led some experts to fear hidden cases. But the country's authorities are confident they are fully prepared to face the challenge. The health workers are being trained for early detection and treatment of the disease. The objective of WHO is to eliminate leprosy as a public health problem worldwide by 2015. With the elimination of leprosy in Timor-Leste, the countries of South-East Asia region are no longer part of the list of countries where leprosy is endemic.

Contributors: Nichola Hungerford (FAO and UNDP), Dr. Paramita Sudharto (WHO), Cesaltino B. Ximenes (CPIO Baucau) and Werner Araujo M. da Silva

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unmit-media@un.org

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