Inauguration Ceremony to open the new Fatin Hakmatek facility in Baucau

At the opening of Uma Fatin Hakmatek in Baucau on Wednesday the 19th of July, Dr Odette Maria Veigas, Director General of Program Services in the Ministry of Health, expressed her pride at opening this new home as it reflects the ability of both the Government and the NGO sector (PRADET) to work together to provide essential services to people experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

PRADET built Uma Fatin Hakmatek with funding from the Embassy of Japan. Fatin Hakmatek Baucau covers the municipalities of Baucau, Viqueque and Lautem with many referrals from the Police and the Vulnerable Persons Unit.

Fatin Hakmatek Baucau provides psycho-social support, counselling emergency and follow up treatment of injuries and infections and short-term accommodation. Fatin Hakmatek organises referrals to other partners such as ALFeLa for legal services, MSS for Child Protection, Police, Uma Paz in Baucau and Viqueque and Uma Mahon in Los Palos for longer safe accommodation.

Doctors and senior midwives in Baucau, Los Palos and Viqueque have received training from PRADET and accreditation from INS to carry out medical forensic examinations so that appropriate medical treatment is given to victims of violence and that details of the injuries are documented. This is to ensure that victims receive comprehensive medical care and that the circumstances leading to their injury are properly noted and can be used as evidence in the Tribunal to support potential convictions against offenders.

The new Fatin Hakmatek provides an important service to the local community. Similar facilities already exist in Dili, Suai, Maliana and Oecusse, leading to a significant increase in the reporting of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

As well as helping communities to address violence, these facilities also help PRADET to respond to those in need, ensure they receive appropriate treatment and provide follow up should they return home.

By working together with the Ministry of Health, PRADET assists the Government of Timor Leste to meet its National and International obligations to provide essential services to women and children experiencing violence.

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