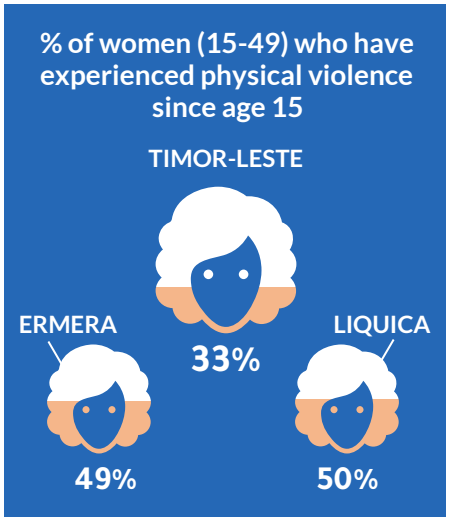
HARMONIA

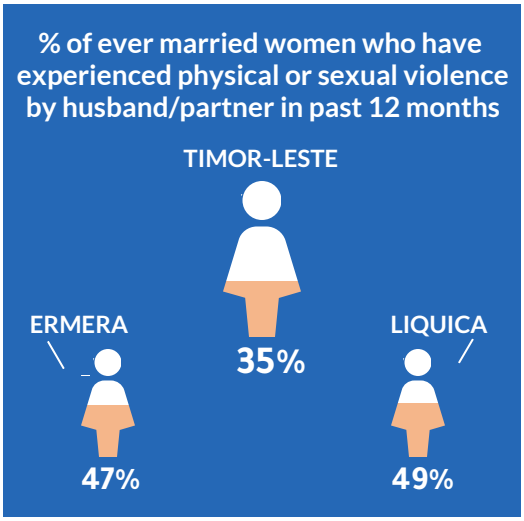
Ending Gender-based Violence

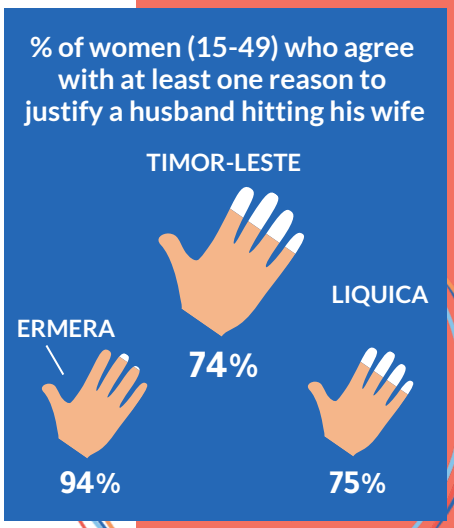
USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

HEALTH ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL

The most common form of gender-based violence (GBV) globally is intimate partner violence. In Timor-Leste, gender inequality and discrimination, societal patriarchal traditions, and a history of armed conflict drive widespread violence against women and children. Violence is also widely accepted and perceived as a justifiable form of discipline and conflict resolution. Compounding the problem is poor awareness of the harmful effects of GBV on individuals, families, and communities, and a lack of awareness of national laws and the formal justice system.







In response to the critical need for ending GBV in Timor-Leste, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is funding the Harmonia Activity, implemented by Health Alliance International (HAI). The Harmonia Activity is being implemented in Ermera and Liquica Municipalities where rates of GBV exceed the national average. HAI is partnering with key stakeholders to deliver the Harmonia Activity through two complementary interventions: community-based microplanning & "Responding to GBV" training for health providers.

WHAT HARMONIA AIMS TO ACHIEVE

- Social change regarding gender power relations & gender equality
- Improved gender sensitive health services and referrals for victims of gender-based violence
- Social change driving an end to GBV

Key Partners

- Ministry of Health
- National Institute for Health
- Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion
- Secretary of State for Equality and Inclusion
- Local community-based organizations
- Health Alliance International
- USAID

Strong community-to-clinic linkages to end gender-based violence in Timor-Leste

How Harmonia Works

Community Microplanning

Harmonia brings together an inclusive and intergenerational group of community leaders in facilitated Community Microplanning (CMP) sessions. The CMP strives to reach not only a common understanding of the most pressing problems related to GBV in their communities, but also an appreciation for different priorities and perspectives that may exist across gender and generational lines. The CMP participants include community leaders with strong female and youth representation, who develop community action plans specific to local GBV problems. Information and Learning events are then organized for the broader community on topics identified by the CMP.

GBV Response Training for Health Providers

In collaboration with partners, Harmonia is developing and implementing a "Responding to GBV" Learning Lab curriculum for training and mentoring all doctors, nurses, midwives and health facility managers working in Ermera and Liquica. Learning Labs are on-site competency trainings that help health providers practice skills through case studies, simulations, and role-playing. Harmonia trains health providers to increase awareness, knowledge, sensitivity and counseling skills to identify and support victims of GBV, including increasing referrals to appropriate support services.

Health Alliance International

Health Alliance International (HAI) is a US-based, international NGO that works in partnership with Ministries of Health to design, implement and evaluate responsive health programs that integrate into existing local health systems.

Since 1987, HAI has successfully implemented 100+ grant- and independently-funded programs, including continuous programming in Timor-Leste since 2002.

- Clinical skills training
- Leadership & management coaching
- Community-to-clinic linkages
- Data use & quality improvement
- Community health promotion
- Pharmacy & laboratory Support
- Local NGO capacity building
- Operations research & evaluation
- Systems improvement & integration

HEALTH ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL

HAI in Timor-Leste

Since the establishment of the Timor-Leste Ministry of Health (MOH) in 2002, HAI's focus has been providing technical and planning support to the MOH's maternal and newborn care and family planning programs.

HAI's strong, collaborative working relationship with Timor-Leste's Ministry of Health at the national and municipal levels, has proven an effective model for scale-up and evidence-based improvement of both clinical and community-based health interventions.

HAI's global experience and technical expertise is bolstered by its local presence, institutional preparedness & established partnerships in Timor-Leste.

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