



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## Independent Evaluation of *Nabilan: Ending Violence Against Women and Children in Timor-Leste* | MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

With the goal of ending violence against women in Timor-Leste, the *Nabilan* program was created as an eight-year partnership between the governments of Australia and Timor-Leste. *Nabilan* is implemented by The Asia Foundation (TAF) in collaboration with Timor-Leste's Ministry for Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) and Secretary of State for Equality and Inclusion (SEII).

The 2021 review, undertaken by DESI Consulting, assessed progress against *Nabilan's* end of program outcomes with an emphasis on Phase 2 programming with a view to informing the design process for Phase 3.

Of the 19 recommendations, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) agrees with 16 and partially agrees with three. Many of the recommendations have already been actioned as part of the design of *Nabilan* Phase 3 process. *Nabilan* Phase 3 is due to commence in July 2022.

### DFAT

| Recommendation   | Response | Action plan   | Timeframe  |
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| 1. Initiate a design/procurement process for Phase 3 ASAP that will ensure continuity of programming in both pillars, and retain <i>Nabilan</i> in-country staff   | Agree    | The design process for phase 3 commenced in August 2021 with an approach that supports continuity of essential services and staff retention.                    | Already commenced and ongoing to July 2022             |
| 2. The Asia Foundation is best placed to ensure continuity. It has proven ability to deliver quality programming and is flexible and adaptable in a changing context. DFAT's grant model is an enabling factor.                    | Agree    | Initial DFAT assessment of available EVAWC partners with Timor-Leste context knowledge accords with review assessment. Specific design pathway to be confirmed. | Design pathway to be confirmed by mid-December 2021    |
| 3. DFAT Post to consider complementing existing donor coordination mechanisms, such as attendance at steering committee meetings, with more informal interactions, particularly with the European Union, KOICA and the UN Resident | Agree    | Detailed design to establish roles and responsibilities ( <i>Nabilan</i> team, TAF country representative, Embassy team) vis-à-vis donor coordination.          | Detailed design document to be completed by April 2022 |

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| Coordinator (and USAID and ADB in the future) with a view to supporting GoTL coordination efforts, provide real time updates on program implementation learning/challenges that could impact on each other's investments, and other strategic questions as they arise. |                 | Detailed design to embed DFAT/MSSI/SEII steering committee (HOM/minister level) and program management team (working level) for GoTL coordination.<br><br>Detailed design to consider appropriateness of PHD support to MSSI/SEII leadership on donor coordination. |  |
| 4. DFAT Canberra create further opportunities for Nabilan program staff to share good practices in regional forums   | Agree           | Currently under consideration as part of regional gender strategy and support and to be considered as part of detailed design.  | Detailed design document to be completed by April 2022 |
| 5. Further explore GoTL request for support for a specialist centre for trauma survivors   | Partially agree | To be considered as part of detailed design and GoTL consultation process, noting DFAT's position that support for current service delivery partners through Nabilan likely to be more effective and sustainable than a specialist trauma centre.                   | Detailed design document to be completed by April 2022 |

### The Asia Foundation

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| 6. More purposefully strengthen existing synergies between Timor-Leste programs: Nabilan, CSCP and Inclusive Tourism Program | Agree           | To be considered as part of detailed design.  | Detailed design document to be completed by April 2022                |
| 7. Take up a stronger donor coordination role to support Nabilan, particularly with the six relevant UN heads of agencies    | Partially agree | To be considered as part of detailed design, noting preference for Nabilan team to be focussed on program delivery with The Asia Foundation Country Representative and Embassy leading on donor coordination. | Detailed design document to be completed by April 2022                |
| 8. Create opportunities for learning forums to amplify impact of research and learning in Timor-Leste                        | Agree           | Currently being established under Phase II and to be continued in new design.   | Ongoing   |
| 9. Facilitate amplification of Nabilan's profile and lessons learned in region through the Foundation's network              | Agree           | To be discussed with The Asia Foundation Country Representative and considered as part of detailed design.  | December 2021; detailed design document to be completed by April 2022 |

## Design of Nabilan Phase III

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| 10. Revisit Theory of Change, particularly look for opportunities for joint action with GoTL and Judicial Actors either directly or through partners to complement advocacy and delivery of services   | Partially agree | To be considered as part of detailed design, including consultation process with other development partners (including TLPDP) and GoTL. Extent of support to Judicial Actors being considered but unlikely to be substantial given substantial resourcing required for effective interventions. | Detailed design document to be completed by April 2022 |
| 11. Building on findings from research currently underway, contribute to sector-wide understanding of the link between violence against children and gender-based violence in Timor-Leste, and develop a more explicit strategy for the prevention of violence against children into the program's Theory of Change  | Agree           | To be considered as part of detailed design, leveraging the recent finalisation of <i>Secondary Data Analysis of Nabilan Baseline Survey Data: Violence Against Children in Timor-Leste and Consequences on Adult Health and Exposure to Adversity</i> .  | Detailed design document to be completed by April 2022 |
| 12. Map professional development needs to strengthen national management and leadership capacity and confidence  | Agree           | To be considered as part of detailed design.  | Detailed design document to be completed by April 2022 |
| 13. Work with DFAT and The Asia Foundation to delineate coordination roles with other ending VAWC stakeholders   | Agree           | To be considered as part of detailed design.  | Detailed design document to be completed by April 2022 |
| 14. Step out a sustainability strategy for service delivery, and what a national framework for prevention of violence against women and children might look like, including supports   | Agree           | To be considered as part of detailed design.  | Detailed design document to be completed by April 2022 |
| 15. Consider promoting and using the NeNaMu curriculum as a foundational course for organisations and individuals working in gender equality programming in Timor-Leste. It could be viewed as the prevention equivalent of the Certificate III course in Social Services, and provide the professional skills for implementing other prevention programs like KOKASA! | Agree           | To be considered as part of detailed design.  | Detailed design document to be completed by April 2022 |

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| 16. Plan how prevention programming can be rolled out to municipalities through local partners in a sustainable manner | Agree | To be considered as part of detailed design. | Detailed design document to be completed by April 2022 |
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Shared (Timor-Leste government, The Asia Foundation, DFAT)

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| 17. Building on UN Women's mapping of existing programming in ending VAWC by identifying: 1) gaps; 2) duplications, 3) opportunities for collaboration; and 4) risks.   | Agree | Analysis of mapping exercise to be annexed in detailed design (with view of periodically updating throughout Phase III). | Detailed design document to be completed by April 2022 |
| 18. Use upcoming National Action Plan process as an opportunity to: 1) address sustainability of service delivery; 2) to inform GoTL's evidence-based approach to preventing violence against women, around which sector-wide consensus can be built; and 3) to make a connection between GBV and violence against children and intergenerational cycle of violence | Agree | Currently underway.  | Ongoing  |
| 19. Explore linkages between MSS/DFAT joint programming in social protection for women and services for victims of violence with a view to including sufficient budget for services for victims of violence into the national budget  | Agree | To be considered as part of detailed design.   | Detailed design document to be completed by April 2022 |