

Joint Press Release

Government of Japan and NGO Frontline Signed a Grant Contract for “Improving Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (RMNCH) in Ermera Municipality”

13th March, 2023

On 13th March, 2023, the Japanese NGO Frontline received 401,460 US dollars from the Government of Japan by grant under the scheme of “Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects”. The budget will be expensed for Frontline’s final year of the three-year-project, “Improving Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (RMNCH) in Ermera Municipality”. The Grant contract was signed by the Ambassador of Japan to Timor-Leste Mr. Tetsuya KIMURA and Mr. Yohei KAWAGUCHI, the Country Representative of NGO Frontline, at the Embassy of Japan in Timor-Leste.

The objective of the project is to increase access to high-quality RMNCH service in Ermera municipality through mother’s classes and awareness campaigns to reproductive health care, capacity building on health workers, and RMNCH system development.

The first year of the project concentrated on developing a basis of the project activities with experts from Japan and Timor-Leste, including construction of maternity building in Guisarudu village, Hatolia, Ermera municipality. At the end of the first year, pilot training of obstetric ultrasound examination was successfully implemented for 14 health professionals in three sub-municipalities of Ermera, with a support from the Ministry of Health and the National Institute of Health. In the second year, mother’s classes and reproductive health promotions for pregnant women were started in 5 villages in Ermera. Addition to that, the second period of training of obstetric ultrasound was implemented for more 12 health professionals.

This year, NGO Frontline is going to expand target areas of the ultrasound training to the other areas than Ermera in order to promote the more Timorese women to have the more safe pregnancy and delivery. Furthermore, the awareness campaign which emphasizes the importance of mothers' continuous access to maternal health care will also be conducted.

Through this project, 4,000 pregnant women will be able to have their access to obstetric ultrasound, more than 35 health care workers and government officials will benefit by capacity building to improve their quality of care and by developing RMNCH health system, more than 100 medical volunteers will gain knowledge for safe pregnancy and childbirth, and additional 16,000 community members to be educated through the awareness campaigns leading to a reduction in preventable maternal and child mortality.

The Government of Japan and Frontline hope that this project will ensure all pregnant women and newborns in Timor-Leste to receive high-quality care during pregnancy, delivery, and the postpartum period, and the project will make more bright future of Timor-Leste.

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