

**Joint Press Release**  
**The Government of Japan and NGO Frontline Organized the Ultrasound Training**  
**for Doctors and Midwives from Bobonaro Municipality**

**Dili, 24 August 2024** – The Government of Japan and Frontline, a Japanese NGO, organized the ultrasound training for doctors and midwives of Bobonaro Municipality as a part of the project "Improving Maternal and Child Health Services through Capacity Building of Physicians and Midwives in Bobonaro Municipality" which started in March this year with a project value of 557,808 US dollars funded by the Government of Japan.

Through this project, the Government of Japan and Frontline aim to improve the quality of maternal and child health services in the community of Bobonaro, where maternal and infant mortality rates are higher than the national average.

The training follows a guideline developed by Frontline and approved by the Ministry of Health in 2021. Through this guideline, Frontline has enabled Timorese doctors and midwives to receive qualified training and obtain a certificate from the National Institute of Public Health of Timor-Leste (INSP-TL) for the first time in the country. This year, 14 doctors and midwives were trained by Dr. Jose Antonio Gusmão Guterres, the project's expert.

In addition to the ultrasound training, Frontline will provide activities such as antenatal care training for health workers, antenatal education classes for pregnant women, and a community awareness campaign for reproductive health education. Through this project, 945 pregnant women will have access to obstetric ultrasound, more than 35 health workers and government officials will benefit from capacity building, and more than 4,000 community members, including family members of pregnant women, will be educated through awareness sessions. These efforts will contribute to a reduction in maternal mortality rates.

During the closing ceremony of the training, Ambassador Kimura said, "Japan has been supporting the nation-building of Timor-Leste since before the restoration of independence, and this year marks the 25th year of assistance. This year, the Government of Japan has signed six projects for the health sector, including the project to construct a new building for surgical, perinatal care and other departments and to provide medical equipment in the National Hospital Guido Valadares that Mr. Komura, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, signed last week. The Government of Japan will continue to work with the Government of Timor-Leste to develop and improve the quality of health care in Timor-Leste."

Mr. Yohei Kawaguchi, Country Representative of Frontline highlighted "This training is a great opportunity not only for medical personnels, but also for community members. The participants are expected to gain knowledge and skills to save the lives of mothers and newborns."

The Government of Japan and Frontline hope that the trainees will contribute to ensure that all pregnant women in Bobonaro Municipality receive high-quality care during their pregnancy and delivery.

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