What is GBV?
“Gender-based violence is violence that targets individuals or groups on the basis of their gender and includes, but is not limited to, any act or situation occurring in public or in private life that is perpetrated or condoned by the state, that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, psychosocial or economic harm or suffering.”

GBV in Timor-Leste
73 percent of women aged 15-49 have experienced physical violence and 9 percent have experienced sexual violence at least once in their life since the age of 15. Most of these experiences at least one act of violence in the last 12 months before the survey.

Injuries
Among the 1,260 married women in the TLDS who had ever suffered from physical or sexual violence by their husband, 75.8 percent indicated they had suffered some injury - bruises (16.0%), eye injuries, sprains, dislocations or burns (15.3%) and wounds, broken bones, broken teeth or other serious injuries (2.7%).

GBV and Health
This fact sheet is based on a secondary analysis of the 2016 Timor-Leste Demographic and Health Survey (TLDHS). The DHS is a globally comparable household survey focused on a wide variety of topics, including marriage, sexual activity, maternal and child health, family planning, infectious diseases, disability, domestic violence, among others.

Injuries among women are four times more likely if their husband has no education or never finished primary school compared to husbands with a higher education. If the husband finished primary education, but never completed secondary education, the likelihood for injuries is also higher (3.4 times).

Education
Most women - irrespective of experience with violence - are (sometimes) afraid of their husband. Of women who experienced severe physical violence 72.7 percent are afraid of their husband and 27.3 percent of the time. Those who experienced sexual violence, 55.6 percent are sometimes afraid and 39.2 percent is most of the time afraid of their husband.

GBV in Timor-Leste
10 Newborn size
Among mothers who experienced physical or sexual violence 12.0% indicated their babies were small or very small at the birth of time. Among those who did not experience any violence, 5.3% reported that their babies were small or very small.

Nearly half of newborns children were not weighed at birth.

Sexual and Reproductive Health
“Good sexual and reproductive health (SRH) is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being in all dimensions of life, not simply the absence of disease or infirmity, that people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life, the capability to reproduce, and the freedom to decide, when, and what, and how often to do so.”

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