

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

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UNICEF AND TVTL FILM SEGMENT ON BREASTFEEDING

UNICEF and East Timor's Television Timor Lorosae today filmed a ten-minute segment on breastfeeding that will be broadcast frequently during the International Breastfeeding Week which begins Thursday.

The segment, which includes a message from Kirsty Sword-Gusmao, the wife of President Xanana Gusmao, will also be shown regularly to clients at the recently opened breastfeeding room at the Dili National Hospital.

The breastfeeding counseling room is part of an initiative by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF to certify Dili National Hospital as "baby-friendly."

Ten midwives have so far been trained in breastfeeding counseling techniques and will soon begin training their colleagues.

The initiative is part of UNICEF's strategy to encourage nursing mothers to exclusively breastfeed their babies for the first six months of life. In East Timor about half of all babies are breastfed for at least three months, but many also receive manufactured supplements.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS WIND UP SOCIALIZATION VISITS

Regional Commissioners from East Timor's Commission on Reception, Truth and Reconciliation (CRTR) are returning to the capital from 33 sub-districts where they have been carrying out socialisation and consultation sessions with members of the community.

The Regional Commissioners will in the coming days brief the CRTR's National Commissioners on their findings from the sessions which familiarised communities on the CRTR's work and heard the views of local residents regarding the need for Community Reconciliation Processes and Truth Seeking in the sub-districts.

Another objective of the socialisation and consultation sessions was to identify instances of politically related violence and human rights violations that occurred between 1974 and 1999. Among its functions the Commission will establish a truth-telling mechanism for victims and perpetrators to describe, acknowledge and record human rights abuses that took place during this period.

