

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE: COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Zebedeo da Silva Benevides, a 25-year-old Vice Coordinator of the Civil Society Organization (CSO) Committee Hautsana, participated in a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) training in January 2024. The training, organized by MAHARU in Maubisse Villa, focused on improving the knowledge of the Suco Disaster Management Committee (SDMC) and community members on DRR and CCA to promote resilience.

Zebedeo found the training to be an excellent learning opportunity. The interactive and participatory methodologies used during the sessions provided a platform for exchanging knowledge and experiences among participants, enhancing his understanding of the subject. *“Ha’u partisipa ona iha treinamentu RRD-AMK GEDSI no Lideransa ne’ebé fasilita husi MAHARU no formadór esternu sira. Ne’e sai ona esperiênsia aprendizajen ida-ne’ebé di’ak tebes ba ha’u kona-ba importánsia husi tópiku ne’e. Treinamentu ne’e fó ha’u-nia koñesimentu ne’ebé di’ak liu husi métodu partisipativu no interativu sira atu troka esperiênsia entre partisipante sira bazeia ba koñesimentu no hanoin individuál sira.”* (“I have attended DRR-CCA, GEDSI, and Leadership training facilitated by MAHARU with external trainers. It has been a great learning experience for me, showing the importance of this subject. The training provided me with valuable knowledge through participatory and interactive methods, allowing for an exchange of experiences among participants based on individual knowledge and views.”)

MOTIVATION AND FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

The training introduced Zebedeo to new concepts and provided him with a systematic understanding of DRR-CCA, GEDSI, and leadership. He expressed his interest in further developing these skills to promote localization efforts and improve future training quality at the municipal and village levels. *“Ha’u interesse tebes ba formasaun ne’e tanba ne’e hanesan tema foun ba ha’u liuhusi atende formasaun ne’e ha’u aprende ona estrutura sistemátika kona-ba koñesimentu RRD-AMK GEDSI no Lideransa no kompriende ho klaru interligasaun iha área temátika ida-idak.”* “I am very interested in this training because it introduced new topics to me. Through attending, I learned the systematic structure of DRR-CCA, GEDSI, and leadership knowledge and clearly understood the interconnection of each thematic area.”)

Zebedeo applied what he learned by sharing the knowledge with his colleagues and other members of the CSO network. He actively participated in the SPRINT project by facilitating DRR-CCA training at the community level, particularly in the hamlets of Aitutu and Mulo. *“Hafoin hala’o treinamentu ne’e ha’u fahé ona iha ha’u-nia organizasaun nia kolega sira no membru rede OSS sira seluk. Aleinde ne’e ha’u hola parte ativamente iha projetu SPRINT hodi fornese fasilitasaun formasaun RRD-AMK ba comunidade sira iha aldeia tarjetu MAHARU liuliu iha nivel aldeia iha Aitutu no Mulo.”* (“After completing the training, I shared it with my organization’s colleagues and other members of the CSO network. Additionally, I actively participated in the SPRINT project



by providing DRR-CCA training facilitation to communities in MAHARU's target villages, particularly at the hamlet level in Aitutu and Mulo.”)

He also engaged in field-level monitoring to track SDMC activity progress, contributing to learning and advocacy efforts at the municipal level. *“Aleinde ne’e ha’u mós envolve iha monitorizasaun nivel kampu hodi monitoriza progresu no realizasaun atividade KJDS nian hanesan parte ida husi esforsu aprendizajen no advokasia iha nivel munisípiu.”* (“Additionally, I have been involved in field-level monitoring to track the progress and achievements of SDMC activities as part of the learning and advocacy efforts at the municipal level.”)

One significant challenge Zebedeo encountered was supporting a participant with a hearing impairment during the training. Despite using visual aids, the team was uncertain if the participant fully understood the content. *“Dezafiu prinsipál sira ne’ebé ha’u hasoru durante treinamentu mak partisipante ida iha problema kona-ba rona ami la hatene dalan di’ak liu atu asegura katak nia partisipa ona iha sesaun treinamentu. Maibé ami haka’as an atu uza vizaun balun ami la fiar katak nia komprende di’ak liu tan sesaun formasaun ka konteúdu.”* (“The main challenge I faced during the training was that one of the participants had a hearing problem, and we didn’t know the best way to ensure he fully participated in the training session. We tried our best by using visual aids, but we weren’t sure if he fully understood the session or the content.”)

PERSONAL IMPACT

The training significantly enhanced Zebedeo’s knowledge and confidence, particularly in facilitating community-level training. He sees this as part of his responsibility as a CSO member to contribute to community mobilization and development, especially in the DRR-CCA area. *“Treinamentu sira ne’ebé ha’u atende fasilita ha’u atu hadi’a ha’u-nia koñesimentu ha’u fiar katak ha’u sei fasilita treinamentu sira iha nivel comunidade inklui hasa’e konsiénsia tanba OSS ne’ebé ami iha responsabilidade ha’u tenke kontribui ba organizasaun no mobilizasaun komunitária ba dezvoltamentu komunitáriu nian liuliu iha área RRD-AMK.”* (“The trainings I attended have helped improve my knowledge and gave me confidence to facilitate community-level training, including raising awareness. As a CSO member, I believe it is my responsibility to contribute to community organizing and mobilization, particularly in the DRR-CCA area.”)

Zebedeo expressed his appreciation for the training facilitated by MAHARU and ADPC, which expanded his technical knowledge of DRR-CCA, GEDSI, and leadership. He believes the project significantly benefited him and helped him develop both in community and organizational development. *“Agradese ba MAHARU no ADPC projetu ne’e util tebes ba ha’u atu promove ha’u-nia koñesimentu tékniku kona-ba RRD-AMK GEDSI no Lideransa. Ha’u fiar katak ha’u aprende ona buat barak husi projetu ne’e liuliu kona-ba RRD-AMK inklui dezvoltamentu comunidade no dezvoltamentu organizasaun.”* (“I am grateful to MAHARU and ADPC. This project has been very useful in promoting my technical knowledge of DRR-CCA, GEDSI, and leadership. I believe I have learned a lot from the project, particularly about DRR-CCA, as well as community and organizational development.”)







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