

Digital Stories of Stigma - Timor-Leste - Martinho

Series title slide text: Stories of Impact and Resilience from People with Disability

Explanatory slide 1 text: Sharing lived experiences gives planners and policy makers valuable insights into the needs of those impacted by their decisions.

Explanatory slide 2 text: We asked people with disability to tell a story about a time they experienced stigma and how they coped.

Video title text: Experiences of Stigma. Martinho's story – Timor-Leste

In this video Martinho's identity, and that of other people, are protected by not showing anyone's face.

Start: We see a photo of a man from the neck down, he is wearing an orange shirt and is seated in a wheelchair

He says: My name is Martinho. I am 29 years old. I have a physical disability and use a wheelchair.

We see: A photo of a set of industrial tools and hands reaching to use them, then we see a photo of two people at a doorway.

Martinho says: I live in Becora and work as a volunteer for RHTO. I want to tell a story about the discrimination I faced when my girlfriend and I were trying to start a family.

We see the hands of two people holding each other.

Martinho says: Years ago, after my girlfriend and I had been together for two years we decided to meet her family.

We see a man from behind, he is seated in a hand pedalled tricycle and wearing a grey and blue and white tshirt. Then we see a hand on a doorhandle.

He says: but what happened was my girlfriend family discriminated against me, when they saw me coming in my wheelchair, they ran away and refused to meet me. I kept trying to meet them even though they didn't accept me.

We see a photo of a man in an orange shirt seated on the ground. He seems to have very short legs.

Martinho says: Her family were asking "why did you choose this man? He walks differently. He walks like a pig."

We see a photo of man holding his hands over his ears, his head is bowed forward.

He says: I started to lose hope and felt sad. I left the decision up to her. She told me "this is the path I choose, there is no other way". Those words motivated me. My friends with disability also encouraged me.

We see a photo of the several people sitting together outside on chairs.

Martinho goes on: They said I have to accept the condition I have. I kept trying to visit her family's place. Then, after five times of asking, they finally asked for representatives from each of our families to meet.

We see a photo of a group of about nine people sitting on the ground on a blanket surrounded by objects of cultural significance including baskets, local woven tais fabric, bottles of honey and a

basket of tobacco leaves. This changes to show a person wearing high status coral beads and a tais wrap.

Martinho says: Our families negotiated and exchanged gifts and got to know each other. But even after we started our family, her brothers said bad words to me.

We see a photo of a smartphone screen with text on it, then we see a table set with rice, soup, meat and chili sauce.

Martinho says: They sent me a text saying, “you are different from us”. When my wife read the text, she cried. My parents in-law tried to encourage me. They said, “just accept it, this is what happens when you start a family”. I still faced discrimination from her siblings during big cultural events too. They always made comparisons and made me feel different. They said, “other people’s families are here but yours aren’t.”

We see a woman carrying a hand-woven basket of dried corn and beans and a basket of tais fabric.

Martinho continues: They told me that I must contribute as much as other people. When I didn’t, they said rude things to me. Despite how they treated me, I never left my wife and children.

We see two women and a man sitting on an outdoor step.

Martinho says: I kept moving on with my life with my wife and children. I want a life without discrimination. Because love does not see our conditions, and if it did, my wife wouldn’t have chosen me.

Disclaimer slide text: This publication has been funded by the Australian Government through the department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The views expressed in this publication are the author’s alone and are not necessarily the views of the Australian Government

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End slide text and logos:

Text: Find more stories of impact and resilience, beside this is a QR code that links to <https://mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/centres-institutes/nossal-institute-for-global-health/research/research-groups/stories-of-impact-and-resilience>

Also in text: This video has been funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Produced by RHTO and the Nossal Institute, University of Melbourne, through the CBM-Nossal Partnership.

Logos:

Australian Aid – navy blue writing and a red kangaroo,

RHTO, A blue outline of an oval, inside is coloured half red and half white with a green outline of Timor-Leste, a group of four people together, one who is using a wheelchair and the words Ra’és Hadomi Timor Oan.

CBM, global disability inclusion red writing, and inclusion advisory group black writing with a yellow circle, red and yellow dots in a cross shape

The University of Melbourne, blue square with white writing and figure of Nike the goddess of victory with the latin words postera crescam laude