

Ladies and Gentlemen,

VIVAT International and its partner Edmund Rice International with local partners have made a UPR submission on Timor Leste with regards to two issues:

1. Clean Drinking Water and Sanitation and
2. Education.

At the UPR session of the second cycle in November 2016 the Government of Timor Leste accepted the recommendations to protect the sources of water to help agricultural activities. However, these recommendations do not precisely mention the need for protecting drinking water supply and building the necessary infrastructure.

Today there still exists a lack of basic supply of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in many regions of the country and in institutions, such as schools. Nearly 20% of the population of Timor Leste still uses surface water due to a lack of access to safe drinking water. Moreover, 25% of the population uses open defecation because of the unavailability of sanitation facilities. In the capital of Timor Leste, Dili, every year, especially in summertime many people have to collect water from a distance to their households due to problems with the supply and distribution of clean and safe water.

Hence, we urge States to recommend to the government of Timor Leste to:

1. To ensure investments to build and to maintain provision of clean drinking water and sanitation system in every region of the country.
2. To increase professional training and institutional capacity building for the development and management system of water and sanitation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The quality of education in Timor Leste is of deep concern because it has ramifications on the future of our nation. Educational facilities need to be constantly improved to cater to the growing student population.

The State must acknowledge that there is an urgent need to improve the educational system and infrastructure in schools. This includes school equipment, library facilities and safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.

The continuous formation of teachers is at the heart of the educational system. Unfortunately, a good number of teachers do not have even the minimum qualification required by the law.

Hence, we urge States to recommend to the government of Timor Leste to:

1. To ensure that primary and secondary schools, in urban and rural areas, have access to all necessities such as classrooms, teaching, and learning materials, clean water and sanitations, mid-day meals, and qualified teachers.
2. Promote qualified teachers with various incentives such as further studies and decent and fair salaries.

In the previous cycle of the UPR of Timor Leste in 2016, the similar recommendations were made by many countries. We hope that this time too many countries will voice our concerns and our recommendations.

Thank you for your attention