



50<sup>th</sup> Session of the HRC  
Item 6 – UPR outcome – Timor-Leste  
June 30, 2022  
Speaker: Vitória Eduardo BELO SOARES

Oral statement submitted by  
**VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education  
and Development**

And co-signed by  
**IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco**

VIDES and IIMA commends the constructive participation of Timor-Leste in its 3<sup>rd</sup> UPR. We welcome the acceptance of recommendations 116.108<sup>1</sup> and 116.114<sup>2</sup> aiming to prioritize budget allocation in education and increase the enrollment rate especially in secondary education and in rural areas. However, we are concerned about the sharp decline in the attendance of secondary education with only 36.39 percent of boys attending school and 42.83 percent for girls.<sup>3</sup> Even though primary and secondary education are free, there are other indirect costs such as school books, uniform and transportation costs that prevent children from low-income families to attend formal schooling. Most of the out of school children come from low-income families and are living in rural and remote areas with difficulty of accessing schools due to distance from their homes.

Moreover, we note with deep concern that the education system of Timor-Leste is characterized by a high degree of internal inefficiency: students remain in the education system for long periods, but they make little progress, given high repetition and dropout rates.<sup>4</sup>

**We call on Timor-Leste to promptly and effectively implement relevant UPR recommendations, with a view to:**

- 1. Improve the retention rate of children at all levels and increase the transition rate as the children progress in the educational ladder by addressing the barriers that leave children out of the educational system.***

Thank You

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<sup>1</sup> Recommendation 116.108 “Increase the percentage of the national budget dedicated to education in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Switzerland)”. See Report of the Working Group Pg.17, UN Document A/HRC/50/12, 4 April 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Recommendation 116.114 “Improve school infrastructure with a view to achieving higher enrolment in rural areas and in secondary education (Poland)”. *Ibidem*.

<sup>3</sup> 2019 Net Enrolment Rate (NER). <http://www.moe.gov.tl/pt/emis/dados-estatistico>

<sup>4</sup> Timor-Leste Basic Education Strengthening and Transformation Project. World Bank. April 1, 2020.