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the People of Japan

Press Release

Handover Ceremony of Refurbished Toilets and Nutrition Supplementation for School in Lautem

Dili, 3rd September 2024 – On 3 September, a handover ceremony was held for the refurbished toilets and the nutrition supplementation at EBF Vairoque in Lautem Municipality. The ceremony was attended by Mr. KIMURA Testuya, Ambassador of Japan to Timor-Leste and Ms. Patrizia DiGiovanni, Country Representative of UNICEF in Timor-Leste, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Education and the local authorities, and teachers, students, and parents of EBF Vairoque.

Since 2022, the Government of Japan, with UNICEF as the implementation agency, has been implementing the Project for Child Nutrition Improvement. This project provides nutritional supplements to children, pregnant women and mothers, and includes training to strengthen the capacity of health service personnel. It focuses on promoting better nutrition practices for children (from conception to 24 months), adolescents and mothers; treating children suffering from acute malnutrition; strengthening national systems and community networks; and helping reverse the high levels of malnutrition among children under five.

As part of the project, five refurbished toilet blocks, including one accessible toilet, and iron folic acid supplementation were handed over to EBF Vairoque. This will benefit 139 student and 6 teachers.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Kimura stated “Japan recognizes that improving school hygiene and child nutrition is one of the urgent challenges in Timor-Leste. It is crucial that the children who will lead the future can attend school and develop both physically and mentally through study and play. I am pleased to contribute to creating an environment where the students at EBF Vairoque School can focus on their studies by repairing the toilets and providing nutritional supplements.”

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Japan’s cooperation with Timor-Leste. Japan will continue to support various development fields in Timor-Leste, including the education sector.

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