

ROSALIA'S STORY...

My name is Rosalia Dakosta-Juni. I am thirteen years old and go to school at Fatunaba. I have a mother and five brothers and sisters. I am the second youngest. I live in Nahaek with my older sister and her children.

Usually I get up at five o'clock in the morning, but sometimes I am tired and I get up at 6. I wash the dishes from the night before. I prepare breakfast for my siblings and cousins and then I get ready. I have breakfast which is usually rice porridge. At seven, I go to school.

I walk with my neighbours up the hill. It is about three or four kilometres. It takes me an hour. School starts at 8am.

At school I learn everything that the teachers teach. I study:

Portuguese	Science
Mathematics	Arts and Culture
Religion	Health and Hygiene

My favourite subjects are mathematics and Portuguese because I am good at them. I learn in Tetum and Portuguese.

When school finishes, I run home so I can help my sisters wash dishes from lunch. I fill up the water and get some wood for the fire and help my sisters cook dinner.

For dinner we usually eat cassava leaves as a vegetable. There is rice. But most of the time we do not have enough money for rice so we eat dried corn.

There is a water tank not far from our house, so we connected a big hose and have a tap just outside. That's how we get water.

This is where I live. I was embarrassed that you would see it. But it is my home. This is my kitchen. There is my big sister.

My father died from sickness years ago. My mother only lives with us at the weekend. She has to work in the city to earn money.

I love to sing and dance. I practise this with my friends. When I grow up I want to be a doctor.

You ask me what I hope for Timor? I hope for a peaceful nation without any more conflict and that the governance will think about the people before themselves.

I have in my mind that the children in Australia do not suffer like me to get their education...is that true?