**Dear Readers,**

**Welcome to the 79th Edition of VIVAT Newsletter!**

This edition comes to you in the middle of Summertime.

With immense gratitude and a sense of Loss, we remember Late Fr. John Kilcrann CSSp, from the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, who was formerly a Member of the Board of VIVAT International and contributed to the promotion of VIVAT in various ways. May he rest in peace of Christ (P. 7).

From New York Office we share the stories about VIVAT’s participation in and contributions to the High Level UN Events: UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII-19), 22 April – 3 May, 2019 (p. 2), High Level Political Forum (HLPF), 9 – 18 July 2019 (p. 10), and on UN World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, 30 July 2019 (p. 11).

We share with you two Joint Oral Statements delivered at the 41st Session of HRC in Geneva on the rights of Migrants, and Trafficked Persons (p. 4).

Three stories come from Latin American Continent: one is on VIVAT Follow-up Workshop in Brazil, 27-30 May, 2019 (p. 3); the other is about VIVAT Workshop on SDGs and Integral Ecology in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 30-31 March, 2019 (p. 6); and the third is a sad story from Brazil that highlights the struggles and cry of the Piquia People (p. 8).

From African Continent you will find two stories shared by Fr. Peter Kabutey, SVD from Ghana about VIVAT/JPIC activities of protecting migrants, the poor, and Mother Earth (p. 5); and Brother Thaddeus Nyanu-ba, SVD about their activities in Mozambique in addressing environmental issues, peace education, poverty and corruption eradication in the country (P. 9).

This issue ends with an continuing education program on SDG 11.

We thank you the contributors, editors and translators of this edition, and look forward to receiving new stories from all our members for the coming edition.

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**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- “Traditional Knowledge: ………… p. 2
- Brazil: VIVAT Follow-up………… p. 3
- Addressing Migrants’ and……… p. 4
- Ghana: Migrants, the Poor and…. p. 5
- Argentina: Let’s Take Care of…. p. 6
- In Memoriam: Fr. John Kilcrann…. p. 7
- “Heroes forever”: Promoting Justice…. p. 7
- Brazil: When the Piquia People…. p. 8
- Mozambique: From Environmental…. p. 9
- VIVAT International’s Participation… p.10
- Strengthening Connections…………… p.11
- Introducing SDGs: (part 12) …….. p. 12

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Seven of VIVAT members participated in the UNPFII from 22 April to 3 May 2019 that focused on the theme “Traditional knowledge: Generation, transmission and protection”.

On 25 April 2019, an informal interactive hearing on the enhanced participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations dialogue was held under the leadership of the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces that aimed the modalities for an effective participation of the Indigenous peoples in the Permanent Forum.

Regional Dialogues were also a part of the Permanent Forum for highlighting the relevance in the countries of the regions and sharpen the focus and impact of the Permanent Forum’s analysis and recommendation. looked at the issues raised during the first week of UNPFII; to seek inputs of the Indigenous Peoples, Member States and UN systems to enhance perspectives for facilitating consensus building; and to identify the emerging and thematic issues for future sessions.

VIVAT International organized a side event, “Protecting traditional knowledge: National and Grassroots Experience”. This event was cosponsored by four UN NGOs. The panel consisted of four resource persons, three of whom were, VIVAT members, namely Sr. Sesilia Anak Agung and Fr. Fransiskus Lake from Indonesia, and Fr. Nicholas Barla from India. The focus of this event was to share the good practices from the local communities in generating, transmitting their traditional knowledge, and the challenges and opportunities they face in preserving it; and to highlight global and national policies, programs and mechanisms in protecting and promoting traditional knowledge.

Sesilia brought her experiences from the women empowerment programs in West Timor and shared how women have promoted traditional knowledge as entrepreneurs. Through PowerPoint presentation she showed various handicrafts and dresses that women have produced. Fransiskus highlighted the Traditional Knowledge of Dayak People in Protecting Environment (forest, water, land, biodiversity, etc.) based on his experience. Nicholas based his presentation on the traditional language to build solidarity among the indigenous communities by citing examples of local level initiatives. Roberto Borrero, who has worked on the rights of the Indigenous peoples at the United Nations for over a decade, shared his experiences of the UN Declaration on the rights of the Indigenous Peoples and called forth for a consistent response by civil society in protecting Indigenous Peoples’ Rights in their territories, identity and the traditional knowledge systems. The participants interacted with the panel. The event was brought to close with a traditional dance of the West Timor.

There are several ongoing initiatives as highlighted by the panelists. There is a great need for local and global focus on the rights of the indigenous peoples to their rich heritage, traditional knowledge systems, identity, land and territories. Micro level efforts must be backed up with sound policies specially in today’s context where the indigenous peoples in many countries are denied their right to land and their unique cultural systems are threatened. At the UN level the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has scope; however, they would yield positive results only when enactment of sound policies and their implementation are done at national and regional level. At the ground level more and more initiatives must be built up that would promote traditional languages, and knowledge systems pertaining to health and way of life. Documentation and dissemination of good practices is a strategy. Civil society organizations need to constantly engage with their governments at every level.

Finally, there is a need to develop a system at local and national levels to transmit traditional knowledge to younger generation.

Helen Saldanha, SSpS
VIVAT International Office, New York
Brazil:
VIVAT Follow-up Workshop

**VIVAT Brazil Follow-up Workshop** was held at the Holy Trinity Missionary Center in Santo Amaro, São Paulo, 27-30 May 2019. The group consisted of select participants who were responsible for JPIC initiatives in the country as well as Province leader/member of leadership Team. At the conclusion of the meeting, the group decided to propose the formation VIVAT Branch. To follow up with this process, three members were selected to form a core team, with the prior approval of the Province leadership.

**Final Statement**
VIVAT Brazil Workshop, 27-30 May 2019


We learnt that VIVAT provides us with opportunity to consolidate the evangelical commitment for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation at ground level, and have a voice at United Nations in the promotion of life, human dignity and rights of the communities we work with. In this sense, we reflected on the themes related to VIVAT’s priorities—Eradication of Poverty, Gender Equality, Sustainable Development and Culture of Peace. We remembered VIVAT’s journey in Brazil and listened to the sharing of activities of the Congregations present. Through the analysis of the national context and sharing of the work of the VIVAT International team at the UN, we identified relevant themes and practical aspects of the organization at the national level.

These reflections, carried out in a climate of great sharing and communion, helped us to draw up a plan of action and to propose the formation of VIVAT Brazil with a core team consisting of 3 persons for effective follow up.

To ensure a more prophetic and effective presence, we decided to take the necessary steps to become a legally recognized entity in Brazil as a national branch of VIVAT International. We will also disseminate information on the workshop and the commitments made and involve our brothers and sisters in our congregations as well as lay partners (people working with us).

Our presence in a deeply unjust and unequal world awakens in us a sense of solidarity, which is rooted in our spirituality and awakens in us the commitment to promote life and to concretely respond as VIVAT network. During these days of meeting, we were particularly struck by the memory of numerous victims of inhuman prison system in Manaus, and the lives of those affected by mining, and dam-breaking related disasters, especially in Brumadinho and Mariana.

We commit ourselves to work on the areas of Sustainable Development, focusing on agribusiness and mining and Culture of Peace, with an emphasis on migration and protection of communities and indigenous peoples. We also opted for taking proactive steps on the issue of Disarmament Bill as well as supporting and following up the commitments that of the Amazon Synod, reaffirming the role of the Amazonian peoples in search of new paths for the Church and Integral Ecology.

Strengthened in hope and deeply committed to contributing to a better life for our people, we concluded the workshop and are confident that the priorities we take will enable us to respond to the needs of the most afflicted groups.

São Paulo, May 30, 2019

The Participants
ADDRESSING MIGRANTS’ AND TRAFFICKED PERSONS’ RIGHTS

Vivat’s Oral Statements at special dialog with special rapporteur on trafficking in persons and at 41st Sessions of Human Rights Council


VIVAT International of Geneva Office also delivered a Joint Oral Statement during Clustered ID dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in persons under Item 3.

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Joint Oral Statement on Migrants’ Rights
at the 41st session of the Human Rights Council
delivered by International Catholic Migration Commission; co-sponsored by VIVAT International and 38 other Non-Governmental Organizations

We are deeply concerned by widespread and growing violations of the human rights of migrants and an environment where those who seek to protect them are increasingly criminalized.

The Global Compact for Migration provides technical guidance and a cooperative framework for the implementation of existing legal commitments. It is mobilizing resources to support States in this.

We are asking you to do more and to do better to save lives and uphold human rights. The Compact can help you do this.

Civil Society is already using the Compact at regional and national level, often in partnership with States, for example:

- Civil society in Central America have a pilot programme to find and identify missing migrants supporting States’ implementation of Objectives 8 and 9.
- Migrant Forum in Asia has led consultations with governments and other stakeholders throughout Asia.
- Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants has developed a baseline assessment on the GCM for the MENA region.
- The International Detention Coalition is working with States to develop a cross regional platform on alternatives to child immigration detention in line with Objective 13(h)

We believe these activities can inspire similar measures, but we need all States to create an environment that enables us to do so and we need all States to take leadership on implementation.

The human rights of migrants deserve the acknowledgement, respect, and urgent action of all of us.

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Joint oral statement

ITEM 3: Clustered ID dialogue with Special Rapporteur on trafficking in person
Delivered by: Andrzej Owca

Mr. Vice President and Ms. Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, VIVAT International and Franciscans International with the support of VIVAT Indonesia and the Evangelical Church of Timor (GMIT), draw your attention to the cases of human trafficking and exploitation of migrant workers in Malaysia coming from the East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) Province of Indonesia.

We are deeply concerned on the symbolic case of Ms. Adelina Sau, who died in February 2018, after being inhumanly treated by her employer, Ms. Ambika Ma Shan.

The employer was sued by Malaysian authorities in court with alleged murder. However, on April 19, 2019, the Penang High Court fully acquitted Ms. Ambika. Adelina’s case is an example-victim of trafficking in person, being tortured, exploited, underpaid and without social and health protection.

We express a serious concern on the situation of migrant workers from Indonesia in Malaysia, many of them are allegedly victims of human trafficking.

In 2018, 105 migrant workers from Indonesia’s province NTT lost their lives in Malaysia.

Between January and June 2019, there are already 58 cases of death. It means, there are 2 or 3 deaths per week from NTT province.

Therefore we urge:

1. The Indonesian and Malaysian governments, without delay, to ratify the ILO Agreement No. 189 concerning decent work for domestic workers.
2. The Indonesian government to make diplomatic efforts to urge the Attorney General’s Office to appeal the case of Adelina Sau and ratify the bill on the protection of domestic workers, which has not been successfully passed for 14 years.
3. The Malaysian government to carry out a fair and transparent trial process on the case of the death of Adelina Sau and bring justice to her family.
4. The Indonesian and Malaysian government to implement the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection of Migrant Workers through the National Law And Migration and encourage ASEAN countries to make the Regional Action Plan as a derivative regulation of the ASEAN Consensus.

1. During the 37th session of the HRC in March 2018, VIVAT International and Franciscans International raised the issue of human rights situation of migrant workers coming from Indonesia to Malaysia.
2. Based on regular report of joint cargo services from Evangelical and Catholic Churches in Kupang, NTT Province.
V IVAT members in Ghana were committed in assisting the poor and the marginalized by organizing the following programmes.

PROTECTION FOR THE POOR AND THE MARGINALIZED

Among the SVDs, The JPIC/VIVAT ministry has embarked on awareness of JPIC issues. We began with the Society during our annual assembly to educate confreres to be fair with the workers we have, by paying them appropriately.

We believe that charity begins at home, considering the fact that we are sometimes unfair to our workers and those with whom we live.

Apart from the assembly, we visited some schools to educate the students on matters of justice. Some of our coordinators in the Northern part of Ghana, were also involved in settling issues which could have escalated into a conflict.

We were fortunate to participate at a workshop organized by the Major Superiors Conference in Rome on Human Trafficking last year. It really opened our understanding on the issue of how people are into business with human life. As JPIC coordinators we agree to spread the news of such activities to save life.

In the same vein JPIC also organized a two day programme towards the care of the environment. This took place at the St. Augustine Catholic Church Ashiaman in the Archdiocese of Accra.

★ The first day, we had mass to pray that human beings may change their action towards the earth our common home as stipulated by Pope Francis in Laudato Si. The homily for the day was centered on justice and the care of the environment as stewards and not master over creation.

★ Then the second day we organized cleaning at some parts of the street in town and a procession with placards bearing inscriptions on the environment.

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MIGRANTS, THE POOR AND MOTHER EARTH: Stories From Ghana

MIGRATION ISSUES

For the first time in the history of the Church in Ghana recently, we organized the international day of migrants with the theme, “Managing the effect of migration today”, and “Pastoral care for migrants”.

The programme was attended by various migrants from different churches in the country. It was an opportunity to know others and to learn more about issues of migration. The participants were excited and came out with a committee to organize the next one in the year 2020.

We also notice a change in the actual celebration as proposed by Pope Francis in this year 29th of September, 2019 and started educating about its celebration in the various parishes.

During our evaluation after this programme, it has been considered to make the celebration of the migrant’s day part of our yearly activity to give pastoral guide to our brothers and sisters who are now with us.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

The care of our environment has been one of the serious issues we are dealing with for some years now in our province.

We are using all means necessary, the media, the church, our schools, conferences organized by the government and the National Bishops Conference of Ghana to appeal to all manner of persons to keep our environments clean.

We are also connected to the Inter-congregational JPIC of Ghana, a group of religious JPIC coordinators. Again we are in partnership with the SSPS and other VIVAT Member Congregations in Ghana to help young ladies who have migrated into the city for work.

Fr. Peter Kabutey, SVD (SVD JPIC Province Coordinator, Ghana – Liberia/VIVAT International)
Let's take care of life! Let's live an Integral Ecology!

Workshop on Sustainable Development and Integral Ecology in Argentina

On March 30 and 31, 2019 VIVAT Argentina held an annual Workshop in Adrogüe, Buenos Aires. The workshop was guided by the Sustainable Development axis, under the theme "Sustainable Development and Integral Ecology", associated with the pastoral principles that emerged from the Encyclical "Laudato Si" of Pope Francis. It called for pastoral, social and educational agents who work in the provinces of Santa Fe, Entre Ríos, CABA, Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Misiones and Jujuy, through various initiatives, linked to the Missionary Servants of the Holy Spirit and the Missionaries of Divine Word.

On Saturday, March 30, Eugenio Fernández of Solidarity Consciousness and Mariela Silvestein of Regional Press Coordinator Buenos Aires were invited to give a presentation, in which they highlighted the need of increasing awareness for the care of the environment, to change in food habits, a greater citizen participation, and prominence in judicial areas based on the demand for the rights of communities. They also emphasized the importance of advocacy initiatives and the accompaniment of communities in critical situations facing mining ventures in Argentina. The damages caused by monocultures and intensive agriculture with agro-toxics, of genetically modified products were also brought to our attention. The growing ecological awareness in the ecclesial and social spheres in general.

In their presentation, they highlighted the need to unite spaces for the use of waste with the possibility of generating work for vulnerable sectors. In addition, they considered a privileged space to think from the rubbish an area of job creation, encouraging a Circular Economy.

They also shared about their experiences of environmental education for children and their multiplying impacts. This includes initiatives of recycling and transformation of garbage into recycled goods. At the same time, they highlighted the importance of linking experiences with other social actors, state and private entities.

Towards the end of the day, Victor Hirch, SVD shared aspects of "An ecological spirituality", highlighting the relevant aspects of the Encyclical "Laudato Si", where Pope Francis highlights the need for an ecological conversion, as a indispensable support for actions to protect the environment and a growing ecological awareness in the ecclesial and social spheres in general.

On the second day, March 31, participants were divided into four working groups to generate a "brainstorm" related to the "Action plan" within the framework of the 2019 Annual Campaign. This led to several creative initiatives that were then taken to the plenary.

At another time of the morning session, the graphic material of the 2019 Annual Campaign of VIVAT Argentina was presented under the motto "Let's take care of life. Let's live an integral ecology." The material has graphic support expressed in: banner, A3 poster, card and bookmark. In its central graphic expression it shows a tree in black color, in which cup there are several signs of death derived from the neglect of the "common house": industrial waste, toxic waste, children suffering from this intergenerational mortgage, migrants from ecological causes, and domestic waste. While in a "watermark" you can read the legend that accompanies our campaign stimulating us to "live an integral ecology".

At the last moment of the Workshop, the participants worked in a participatory manner to build the central lines of action plan. We agreed to work on the axes: (1) Conscientization and Awareness raising; (2) experiences and concrete actions; (3) Advocacy Actions with greater impacts.

Two teams were set up to encourage actions that could contribute to the consolidation of an "integral ecological spirituality" and generate an "impact in the educational fields, strengthening an alliance between humanity and the environment" (cfr. LS 209).

At the end of the Workshop Victor Hirch, SVD recommended to participants to study and assimilate the Encyclical "Laudato Si" through the use of various media and reading materials such as "Pastoral Letter on Integral Ecology in light of the Laudato Si Encyclical" CELAM; "Letter of Pope Francis Ecology Integral" Editorial EDEBE, Fransecs Riu-Barcelona; "Laudato Si: readings from Latin America" Ediciones CICUS - Grupo Farrell; "Vivat 2019 Planner Calendar"; and the resources uploaded to the website of Vivat Argentina (https://vivatargentina.wordpress.com/).

B. Victor Hirch, SVD
VIVAT Argentina
On 11 June 2019 Fr. John Kilcrann, C.S.Sp said goodbye to his earthly journey in Dublin, after a short illness. He was 71. He will always be remembered as a person who devoted to justice and peace through his life and mission. We at VIVAT have truly lost a friend, well-wisher committed member who always encouraged, promoted, shared his knowledge and experience in the promotion of life, human dignity and rights. He played a great role in bringing his religious Order, Congregation of the Holy Spirit (CSSp) to VIVAT Family and remained a staunch supporter always.

Though I have met Fr. John Kilcrann only twice during the VIVAT workshops held in Belgium and Nigeria, his presence and sharing on the Social Teaching of the Church in the context of VIVAT mission stays with me. He always stressed on the importance of speaking for the voiceless and empowering them emphatically differentiated charity and social justice through two feet theory. Rest in Peace Fr. Kilcrann.

Helen Saldanha

(The following is the NEWSFLASH No. 09/2019, Published on 16 June 2019 by Congregazione Dello Spirito Santo Information Office, Clivo Di Cianna, 195 - 00136 ROMA, ITALIA, information@cssproma.com)

Death of Fr. John Kilcrann C.S.Sp.

It is with the saddest regret that we announce the death of Fr. John Kilcrann C.S.Sp. aged 71, which occurred on Tuesday, 11th June 2019, in Dublin, Ireland.

John attended Blackrock College and was professed in 1967. He moved to Kimmage Manor. After obtaining his BA and H. Dip, doing his “prefecting” for two years in Rockwell College, he was conferred with a BD and was ordained in 1976. Upon completing development studies in Kimmage, he was appointed to Brazil.

From 1978 – 1980, Fr. John served in pastoral roles in several parishes in the State of São Paulo. He was also involved with diocesan and regional commissions working on behalf of the landless. From 1980–1986, John served on the council of the Spiritans (Brazil South West). After completing his MA in New York’s Fordham University, he returned to Brazil, was appointed the Spiritans’ JPIC coordinator for Brazil / Paraguay, and was Founding Director of Serviço Brasileiro de Justiça e Paz. He served, at state and national level, on the JPIC team of the Conference of Religious. Leaving Brazil in 1998, he completed his D. Min. at The Catholic Theological Union, Chicago.

Fr. John was the Director of JPIC of the Congregation, based in Rome. He rendered that service from 2000-2009. He served on the board of the Africa Europe Faith & Justice Network, on a num-ber of JPIC commissions and on the board of VIVAT International. In 2009-2010, he was a Fellow at Duquesne University where he was working on the development of a distance-learning JPIC program.

In Ireland, he continued to play leadership roles in the life of the Irish Province in the areas of JPIC, VIVAT, Advisory Committee of CORI / IMU and later AMRI. Serving on the 2012–2018 Provincial Leadership Team, he was central in setting up Spiritan Mission Ireland. He continued to offer his services to the Generalate whenever the General Administration in Rome called upon him. Fr John was here in the Generalate barely 2 weeks ago. Was it to say adieu to the house where he once lived and worked?

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, the Irish Province and the entire Congregation of the Holy Spirit. We shall eternally miss the joy, the spirit of dedication and selfless service with which he accepted any appointment given to him, and with which he related with confrères and all he met.

May the soul of Fr. John Kilcrann and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

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“HEROES FOREVER”: PROMOTING JUSTICE, PEACE AND SOLIDARITY IN SCHOOLS IN ITALY

I had the joy of returning to promote the adoption of the Multilevel Project “Maremetamare e le storie dell’Onda” by Fedele Eugenio Boffoli and Patrizia A. Gabbianelli by the teacher Floriana Massa and students of IV F – Full Time L.C. Dante-Galiani, with particular attention to the environment and justice, through the fairytale “Hero Forever” and to collaborate in its development.

In the project artistic experience was used to provoke a reflection oriented in space and time on the timeless value of life, the environment, justice and solidarity. With the project we wanted to continue to bring children closer to the theme of the environment, ecology and lawfulness, to understand the need to identify and develop daily environmentally sustainable behavior and to weave healthy and indiscriminate relationships. These were the objectives of a course on “Promotion and education for the protection of the sea, the origin of life” with particular attention to the theme of justice and care for “Our Common Home”.

The children were helped to weave human relationships at an intercultural level, overcoming prejudices.

Together we tried to build a sense of justice and to develop the ethics of responsibility. The children’s ability to interact with their surroundings was enhanced, and they became accustomed to frequently dedicate time to its care – concretely cleaning, recycling, watering, planting flowers and an olive tree in the garden of their school – and to deepening the meaning of justice.

The young students made an alphabet of “Justice”, creating it in artistic form, and were helped to learn and respect it. The contents assimilated by the children were shared with the families at a meeting with the author of the fairytale and a final show.

St. Kochurani V. Pudappattil, ASC
Rome/VIVAT International
BRAZIL:
WHEN THE PIQUIÁ PEOPLE RAISE THEIR VOICE

On May 8, 2019, International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), Justicia nos Rails and the Community Association of Residents of Piquiá (ACMP) present a report on the mining-steel industry in Açaílândia that reveals the persistence of violations of human rights by the action and omission of both public and private agents, including Vale SA, the main iron supplier and pig iron iron carrier produced by the steel companies.

The report, also supported by the Churches and Mining Network, is an evaluation that reveals the lack of implementation of the recommendations made 8 years ago in the 2011 report to the responsible actors and an encouragement to the progress achieved by the community in the fight for the recognition and reparation of violations of their rights.

The case of Piquiá is emblematic of the dramatic consequences of the model of development that has placed economic interests on human rights and should be an incentive to think of an alternative model that allows the full satisfaction of the rights of all.

In a context of recent easing of environmental legislation, lack of control measures and sanctions, companies operate outside the legal framework. Although violations of environmental legislation were noted by the competent bodies, some steelmakers operate without environmental licenses and the structures of the already deactivated ones are deteriorating in the open, with irreversible consequences on the environment and the populations of the surrounding communities.

In addition, the economic contribution of companies to reparation is almost non-existent, and so far there has been no formal recognition of responsibility for documented human rights violations, which opens the possibility for such violations to persist.

"Companies act on the principle that people are not aware of their rights and are not organized to fight for them. We chose not to accept the role of second-class citizens that the companies wanted to impose and that is why we made some progress. The history of Piquiá shows that the events of Mariana and Brumadinho are not isolated cases but the result of a pattern of behavior that must change urgently," said Joselma Alves de Oliveira, of the Community Association of Residents of Piquiá.

The report shows that, despite the progress made in the resettlement process of 312 families in Piquiá de Baixo (approximately 1,110 persons) with the beginning of construction in November 2018, persistent pollution and other associated risks continue to deteriorate the health of more than 7,500 residents from all over Piquiá.

According to our organizations, none of the 39 recommendations were fully implemented and 74.4% did not make any progress, which means that none of the human rights violations documented in 2011 has been fully repaired.

"To the extent that reparation by companies is made exclusively for the purpose of avoiding social, economic, reputational or other sanctions, and that the Brazilian State is unable to monitor and sanction violations, Brazil will not be heightened the standards of responsible business conduct of the OECD, the organization they want to be a part of," said Maria Isabel Cubides, representative of the FIDH Globalization office.

The public institutions have not demonstrated the capacity or real will to face strategically the problems derived from environmental pollution, on the contrary they have been limited to respond to these problems in a passive way, only under the impulse of the manifestations by the people affected, which is insufficient.

The main advances have been possible thanks to the enormous work of the community that has managed to build its protagonism. The role of human rights defenders has been crucial in the struggle for integral reparation. The State must provide guarantees of a safe and propitious environment for the defense of human rights.

In view of the few specific progress made, this report is presented not only as a denunciation tool, but also as a starting point for a series of advocacy and communication actions that will give greater international visibility to this problem and, above all, many situations of abuse identified, are repeated.

Reported by FIDH, JNT and Fr. Dario Bossi, MCCJ
VIVAT International, Brazil
INTRODUCTION
This report basically covers School Apostolate, Civic Education on Electoral and Environmental issues as well as eradication of Corruption and Poverty Eradication. I only want to mention two of them.

1. Sanitation/Waste Management in our Community School

Background
Littering is a worrying phenomenon in public places like Schools, hospitals, markets, beaches, parks and even on main roads in many cities of Mozambique. Beautiful sites have lost their glory and drainages are choked with filth all because of littering. Thus common places are no longer attractive to relax and sometimes are filled with mosquitos and other insects that transmit communicable diseases. Also during raining season some families suffer from floods related disaster in their homes simply because the few existing drainages are choked with filth.

Contents
We used our Parish Community School, (Escola Comunitária Santo António da Malhangalene) to implement a pilot base anti-littering campaign with a project call Waste Management. We provided the School with eight dustbins which placed them at various vantage points for both students and stuff to drop in their garbage. We also continue liaised with the Municipal Assembly which provided us with a tractor that comes to empty our dustbins whenever they were full.

In terms of a long term basis, we have organized three workshops with each lasting 9 hours for 125 students selected from all the classes to form a group known as Friends of the Environment (Amigos de Meio Ambiente). Topics treated in these workshops are; leadership, health and environments, poverty and human behavior as well as corruption and political manipulation. And after each workshop, we encouraged them to share with their colleagues in the School and friends at home.

Apart from this, we also dedicated 15 minutes of all Mondays and Friday’s student’s assembly to sensitize them on the importance of keeping our surroundings and our city clean and the consequences of corruption. In addition, we also liaise with ASCHA to organize two seminars for selected students from all the High Schools in our District on environmental issues, corruption, security and poverty in the country.

Impact Expected
First and foremost, there are signs that our campaigns on the sanitations are yielding dividends, sanitation has improved in the School by 70%. The District Education Office has been full of praises of our School throughout this year because the School compound has been pretty clean and healthy. Also NGOs such as MOVA and ASCHA have chosen our School for all their activities their year because of the improved sanitation.

However, we expect that the friends of the environment group would continue to use the knowledge gained through the workshops to educate their friends and family members on the importance of caring for our environment.

2. Poverty Eradication and Civic Education on Corruption and Politics

Background
Poverty and corruption are highly correlated and each has an influence on the other. On one hand poverty can lead people into corruption while on the other hand corruption can crumble a country economy and breed poverty. A case in point is the present situation here in Mozambique. In the last four years, the country economy has been in serious crisis and the reason for the crisis is corruption. The immediate past president is alleged to have taken a loan know today in the public parlance as “Dívida Oculta” (Secret Debt) from Banks in the US. According to the information at the public domain, due processes were not followed in contracting the loan and worse still the money went into private bank accounts in foreign countries although the country is made to pay the debt. So as a result the country has suffered economic crisis almost four years now thus creating untold suffering for the vast majority.

Content
Our 2017/2018 JPIC program had its main objective of eradicating poverty by promoting food security and socio-political empowerment among our parisioners in particular and the Mozambican society in general. To achieve this objective our activities were planned to address the immediate needs of people while contributing to the long term solutions.

Immediate Needs of the People:

Monthly Food Distribution: The Saint Anthony of Malhangalene Parish Maputo distributed food staff monthly to the needy in the parish, mostly elderly people.

Support for Families that lost their Houses and Properties to Flood: Monapo and Beira communities supported families who lost their homes and properties to floods during the 2017/2018 raining season both morally and materially.

Supported for Farmers: Liupo community supports some farmers with seeds for their farms during the raising season. Then during harvesting season they buys quite a lot of food staff such as beans and maize directly from the farmers at prices slightly higher than that current market price, then few months later when the people begin to experience hunger these same products are sold back to them at prices lower than the market price in order to help many people meet their daily bread.

Reported By Br. Thaddeus Nyanuba, SVD, JPIC Mozambique for VIVAT International
VIVAT International’s Participation in the High Level Political Forum 2019

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) convened under the auspices of the ECOSOC was held from 9 – 18 July 2019 followed by a day of discussion at the High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 19 July, on visions and projections for the future of the SDGs and long-term scenarios. The Forum deliberated on the theme, “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. SDGs 4 (education); Goal 8 (decent work and sustainable economic growth); Goal 10 (Inequality); Goal 13 (Climate change); Goal 16 (Peaceful and inclusive societies); Goal 17 (Global partnership) were reviewed. The program included Thematic Reviews, Ministerial meetings and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) by 47 countries.

In his opening address to the HLPF Ministerial Segment UN Secretary-General António Guterres unequivocally said, “We are not yet on track and must step it up,” He said that the picture is unsettling, with poverty rates not falling fast enough to meet the 2030 “no poverty” goal, and fair and efficient justice systems are beyond the reach of some 5 billion people and invited the member states to action.

The Forum also identified new threats to SDG implementation in line with its mandate to identify emerging issues, such as climate change, a reduced pace of economic growth, the threat of a further decline in the economy and new technologies.

The civil society participation was through 9 Major groups, and statements made called the governments to action on issues of climate change, quality education, decent work, inclusion and empowerment.

VIVAT International worked in the planning and organization of two side events.

- First, as a subcommittee member of the Grassroots Taskforce, which is one of the subcommittees of the NGO Committee on Social Development (NGO CSocD) VIVAT worked on the side event, “Lived Experiences of Inequality (SDG 10): Grassroots Respond”. This was based on the survey on SDG 10. The event presented the main findings of the survey one inequality followed by grassroots level sharing by three panelists based on their personal experience. Monica Sanchez, who is the trauma counselor LSA Family Health Service was one of the panelists. She shared on how she helps the migrants to overcome their trauma through art therapy. Sr. Suzanne Lachapelle made her interventions based on many years of experience.

- Second, as a member of the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Major Group, VIVAT International worked with the team that planned the side event, “From Grounded Policy, Through Embodied Practice, To Broad Participation”. Thematic discussions focused on access to Water, Land and Impact of Climate Change, extreme Poverty and Human Rights, foundations for Good Governance, challenges and actions.

VIVAT International - New York Office
The United Nations (UN) and some Civil Society Organizations at the UN marked the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, July 30th, 2019, by organizing some events.

UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres in his message on this occasion, states: “Human trafficking is a heinous crime that affects every region of the world. Some 72 per cent of detected victims are women and girls, and the percentage of child victims has more than doubled from 2004 to 2016, according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Most detected victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation; victims are also trafficked for forced labour, recruitment as child soldiers and other forms of exploitation and abuse. …

…Multilateral action has generated progress, including through the Palermo Convention and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Most countries have the necessary laws in place, and some countries recently recorded their first trafficking convictions. But more needs to be done to bring transnational trafficking networks to justice and, most of all, to ensure that victims are identified and can access the protection and services they need, forms of exploitation and abuse. The percentage of child victims has more than doubled from 2004 to 2016, according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. Most detected victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation; victims are also trafficked for forced labour, recruitment as child soldiers and other forms of exploitation and abuse. …

On this World Day against Trafficking in Persons, let us reaffirm our commitment to stop criminals from ruthlessly exploiting people for profit and to help victims rebuild their lives (Source: “Secretary-General’s Message for 2019”, https://www.un.org/en/events/humantrafficking/messages.shtml).
INTRODUCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (PART 12)

SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

SDG 11 TARGETS

• By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
• By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
• By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
• Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage
• By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
• By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
• By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, persons with disabilities, older persons and persons with special needs
• Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
• By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
• Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

PROGRESS OF GOAL 11 IN 2019

Substantial progress has been made in reducing the proportion of the global urban population living in slums, though more than 1 billion people continue to live in such situations. Urgent action is needed to reverse the current situation, which sees the vast majority of urban residents breathing poor-quality air and having limited access to transport and open public spaces. With the areas occupied by cities growing faster than their populations, there are profound repercussions for sustainability.

• Between 1990 and 2016, the proportion of the global urban population living in slums fell from 46 to 23 per cent. This progress was largely offset by internal population growth and rural-urban migration. In 2016, just over 1 billion people lived in slums or informal settlements, with over half (589 million) living in East, South-East, Central and South Asia.
• The proportion of urban residents who have convenient access to public transport (defined as living within 500 m walking distance of a bus stop and within 1,000 m of a railway and/or ferry terminal) remains low, particularly in developing countries. Based on data from 227 cities from 78 countries in 2018, on average, 53 per cent of urban residents in all regions had convenient access to public transport, from a low of 18 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa to a high of 75 per cent in Australia and New Zealand. In some regions that have low access to public transport, informal transport modes are highly prevalent and in many cases provide reliable transport for the majority of urban populations.
• In 2016, in 10 people living in urban areas still breathed air that did not meet the World Health Organization’s air quality guidelines value for particulate matter – that particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in size (PM2.5) not exceed an annual mean of 10 micrograms per m3 a daily mean of 25 micrograms per m3 – and more than half of the world population experienced an increase in PM2.5 from 2010 to 2016.
• Most cities have struggled to ensure that their populations have convenient access to open public spaces (defined as spaces within 400 m walking distance of their residence). Based on data from 220 cities in 77 countries in 2018, only 21 per cent of the population had convenient access to open public spaces. However, these results do not necessarily mean that there is an inadequate share of land dedicated to open public spaces in these cities, but rather that their distribution across urban areas is uneven.

Source: Report of the Secretary-General, Special edition: progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

UPCOMING EVENTS

22-23 August: 4th Assembly of Churches and Mining Network, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
26 - 28 August: The 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.
23 September: UN Climate Change Summit, UNHQ, New York.
17 - 30 September: UN General Assembly, UNHQ, NY, USA.

UN Calendar of International Days:

AUGUST
9: International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples
12: International Youth Day
19: World Humanitarian Day
21: International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism
22: International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief
23: International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
29: International Day against Nuclear Tests
30: International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances

SEPTEMBER
5: International Day of Charity
8: International Literacy Day
10: World Suicide Prevention Day
12: United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation
15: International Day of Democracy
21: International Day of Peace
23: International Day of Sign Languages
26: International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons