

Rotary Projects Timor-Leste East. Report (RPTLE)

31st August 2022 to 26th September 2022



Max Bird, Project Manager.

Project Brief

Purpose:

- 1. Inspect the modified sea container water filter at Don Bosco Comoro**
- 2. Check the operation of the water filter at SOL's 24/7**
- 3. Inspect the Gem Water Filter at the girl's orphanage at Laga and its operation**
- 4. Instal the modified Sea Containers with the SkyHydrant Water filters at Laga, Fatumaca and Fuloro as the communities have completed the preparation work as required**
- 5. Inspect Wailili and ascertain if the community has given their support to the project, and they have carried out the preparation work required**
- 6. Inspect the new water source at Baguia and assess its suitability**

Project Report

Overview

- **Don Bosco Comoro**
After 12 months of operation and supplying filtered water to in excess of 3,000 people during the Timor floods and is still in pristine condition, the modified sea container SkyHrdrant water filter has proven to be a show case of what can be done.
- **SOL's 24/7**
Similar with the SkyHrdrant water filter at SOL's 24/7 it is continuing to achieve great results, and the sickness level in the school has decreased considerably due to now having clean potable drinking and cooking water. A great outcome!

- **Laga Girls Orphanage**
Replaced the old Sawyer water filters at the girl's orphanage laga with a new GEM SkyHrdrant water filter.
- **The Baguia project**
This project is part of the Global Grant GG1872605 with an available amount of expenditure in excess of USD \$60,000.00. With currently over 80% of the monies having been already committed and spent on the project, we still have some more work to do within the village of Baguia expanding the water system in the near future. With this project, the water supply is proven and the flow continues to improve, thus enabling us to complete the required works.
- **The Gem water filters and the modified sea containers**
The containers are fitted with Skyhydrant water filters are not part of the Global grant and are funded directly by the Rotary clubs and private sponsors, including East Timor Roofing in Melbourne who supplied all the tanks and frames for the project.

Project goals achieved.

1. The Gem water filter was installed at the girl's orphanage laga and was greatly received by the community.
2. Inspection of a new water source at Baguia were carried out, and further inspections during the dry season and consultation will now be required with new land owners. This source is now deemed to be unsuitable as the water flow is too low during the dry season. However, we did find two more springs closer to Baguia that may be suitable close together with a combined flow of 20 litres per minute or 28,800 per day.
3. Installing the Modified Sea containers fitted with Skyhydrant water Filters at Laga, Fuiloro, Fatumaca and Baucau were carried and finalised. Wailili is having trouble relocating the sea container and will be on hold for a couple of weeks.
4. Inspection of the water source at Wailili proved to be one of the best I have seen and the community leader is not only willing to share the water but will supply the pump as well.

Acknowledgements

“Special thanks to the following supporters of this program, for without them none of this would be possible”

Water for Hungry Months (Victoria) and East Timor Roofing Holding company Melbourne for supplying all the tank and frames for the sea containers

The Rotary Clubs of:

Albany Port, Byford & Districts, Cockburn, Esperance, Kojonup, Kwinana, Manjimup, Mandurah Districts, Mount Barker, Palm Beach, Southern Districts, Rotary Club of Dili Lafaek, and the Rotary Club of Dili

Future project works

1. Finish the Baguia water project and the remaining work associated with the Global Grant 1872605.
2. Install two more Gem Water Filters to the Girls orphanage at Fuiloro and Los Palos, the sister are talking to each other and now they all want a water filter.

Activities Diary

Wednesday 31st August

I arrived in Dili at 5.00 pm from Perth. Thanks to Paulo the project utility was waiting for me at the airport. I made a quick stop into Timor Telecom to organise our phone & internet services, then checked into Beachside Hotel.

Thursday 1st September

Annelise and Duncan Hedditch arrived checked them into the Beachside hotel then to Timor Plaza and Timor Telecom to organise their phone & internet services, we also inspected the modified sea container and filter at Dom Bosco Comoro and the one at SOL's 24/7, both are working extremely well.

I ordered our extra Fittings from Vindod Patel to be picked up on Friday 2nd September



Friday 2nd September

Travelled to Baucau to meet Father Manuel and stay at the parish then to start work at Fatumaca and Wailili, however both where not ready to start and the Father had a problem with several Padre's traveling and taking up extra rooms.

Decided then to continue to Laga and start work there instead, we set up in our rooms then inspected the site for the sea container, and got all the required tools and equipment from our storage container in Laga.

We also inspected the gem water filter that was installed in the girl's orphanage in June 2022 it is working very well and the sisters are looking after the filter extremely well.



Saturday 3rd September

Started work on the sea container. Duncan had done the design, and it was great to work with him and Annelise. The work progressed very well

Sunday 4th September

Finished of the installation work on the sea container, and all were very impressed, I walked the water supply line from the parish bore to the High School and mended a number of leaks considerably improving the water flow to the container, we had installed this pipe line about six years ago so a few leaks were to be expected.



Monday 5th September

Carried out the Operational training with the boys and the staff who will be responsible for the ongoing operations and maintenance, then travelled to Fuiloro. Inspecting Brother Peter's new school site at Lautem on the way, we were made extremely welcomed at Fuiloro, and Father David who I had worked with previously, he also worked very well with Duncan

Tuesday 6th September

Finished the insulation of the sea container then found out the head of water from the large tank behind the dairy that RPTLE (Rotary Projects Timor-Leste East) had reinstalled approximately 5 years ago was now the main water source, was too low for the water to run into the tank on top of the sea container, we bought a new Sanyo on-demand pump in Los Palos and fitted it into the container. This now works well with about 30 litres of water per minute pumping into the tank.



Wednesday 7th September

Carried out the operational training with the boys and staff who will be responsible for the ongoing operations and maintenance, and then travelled back to Laga, preparing fittings and tools for Fatumaca.

Thursday 8th September

Travelled to Fatumaca via Timor Roofing where we picked up Brother Tom. Again, we were very well received and looked after, Annelies and Duncan with the boys and tradesman worked as a great team.

Friday 9th September

Again, we had problems with the head of water not being sufficient, however we managed to get a small Sanyo pump from the training school as they had four that they were using for training. We also run about 100 meters of 25mm poly pipe and connected to a 3” main by removing an existing fitting and installing ours, a ‘tee’ piece will be added later by the Plumber reconnecting the water to the ponds.



Saturday 10th September

Carried out the Operational training with the boys and staff who will be responsible for the ongoing operations and maintenance then travelled back to Dili.

Sunday 11th September

Annelies and Duncan flew back to Darwin then Brisbane and onto the USA after a few hectic but very productive days. They were delight to work with. I attended the 20th year anniversary dinner of the Rotary Club of Dili.

Monday 12th September

Returned to Bacau after picking up more fittings and the mobile op shop. I picked up a full ute-load of clothing from Judie at Rotarians helping Timor. Then we delivered several boxes to Father Rolando for the girl’s orphanage at Fuiloro, Father Manuel for the poor kids in Baucau, the sisters teaching deaf kids in Baucau, the sisters at the laga orphanage and mana Leo at Baguia.



Tuesday 13th September

Travelled to Baguia via Laga arriving late afternoon made contact with mana Leo who was on the way to Baguia from Dili, and Mario who was also working on road maintenance. Arranged to meet after breakfast tomorrow morning to inspect the spring in the mountain again as it is now well into the dry season.

Wednesday 14th September

Went with Mario to the spring that looked good in June now less than a litre per minute, we will not do any more here.



Then we looked at several springs closer to Baguia that for various reasons we have not had access to previously we now have permission - marvellous what a lack of water will do!



Held a meeting with Senor Antonio (Sub district Administrator), Leo Guterres (Baguia District Education Director), the Suco Xefie and the land owner all who agreed verbally for the village to use the water from these springs.

Now it's up to the community to formalise the agreement build diversion walls to direct the water to a newly built holding tank of around 7,000 to 10,000 litres then extend the power line from town to the spring, once that is done RPTLE will connect a pump and pump water to the high school as planned.

Thursday 15th September

Returned back to Baucau and visited the Timor Roofing factory to correct the rumour that has been going around in Australia that the machines are not working and are rusting away, nothing could be further from the truth as all machines bar one is fully operational and working well.



Friday 16th September

Went to Wailili with Father Manuel and met with the village leaders, including the local Father. We discussed their delay in getting the sea container on site for us to fit the Skyhydrant water filter, advised them that we had arranged with Father Rui at Laga to release a sea container for their use, but transportation was up to the villagers of Wailili to arrange. Then we arranged with them that the tanks and frames at Wailili would be relocated to the Baucau High school where all was ready for installation of a Skyhydrant water filter. The

new tanks and frame would be reordered for them once the sea container was installed and ready for us to proceed

Saturday 17th September

Attended the consecration of the new Church at Hau-Robu Baucau and its first Mass with:

- Pe Alitio Gusmao the Salesian Provincial
- Pe Manuel De Silvca Ximenes
- General Lere Apan Timur
- PNTL police Commander Senior Antonio

Plus, many other priests from all over Timor-Leste and other VIPS including yours truly, and about 1,000 villagers from far and wide.



Sunday 18th September

Carried out the preparation for installing the SkyHydrant Water Filter into the sea container for the High School at Baucau. Then going back to Laga and picking up all the fittings and poly pipe needed to install the water filter, arranged with Br Tomas to pick up the tanks and frames from Wailili, and take to the high school at Baucau Monday morning.

The girls found out it was my birthday, and made a cake and prepared a celebration for that night.



Monday 19th September

Fitted the tanks and frames into the sea container plus the SkyHydrant water filter and taps at Baucau, started at 10.30am had water running out of the taps at 5.30pm. Also, found we had same problem with not enough head pressure to fill the top tank so we purchase one more

small Sanyo water pump to help with the filling of the top tank.



Tuesday 20th September

Made some finishing touches to the fittings in the container such as bracing the taps back to the wall of the sea-container, also went back to Fatumaca, and made the same modification to the taps there.



Wednesday 21st September

Travelled back to Fuiloro via Laga and made the same modification to the taps at both Laga and Fuiloro. all banks of taps in the four insulations that have been done on this trip now have the reinforcing straps bracing them back to the container wall, hopefully this will give a longer life to the banks of taps

Thursday 22nd September

Carried out some minor touch up to the container by fitting power a point for the Sanyo water pump and lighting for the container.



Friday 23rd September

Travelled back to Baucau via Laga and put all our tools and spare fittings back into our container at Laga, stayed overnight at Baucau

Saturday 24th September

Returned to Dili and caught up with Judite and Mario from the Rotary Club of Dili and picked up the two Gem SkyHydrant water filters that were sent up by DAA for installing in the girls' orphanages, also held a meeting with Br Adriano arranging with him to install the Gem water filters at the Fuiloro and Los-Palos.

Sunday 25th September

Cleaned the project ute and refuelled it for the next trip

Monday 26th September

Finally, a rest day Returned to Australia on the 3.10pm flight out of Dili to Darwin.



“This program is achieving results from a great team and I’m proud to be part of it!”

Max Bird Project Director, PP. Rotary Club of Kwinana

Special thanks must go to the other Members of the Rotary Projects Timor-Leste East Team (RPTLE)

Consisting of

- Mr Duncan Hedditch
- Mrs Annelise Hedditch
- Mr. Ted Evans
- Mr Michael Le-Cocq