

# **Rotary Projects Timor-Leste Report. East (RPTLE)**

1<sup>st</sup> October to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023



**Max Bird, Project Manager.**

## **Project Brief**

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**Objectives: To;**

- 1. Exchange the faulty Gem water filter that failed due to high Calcium Content in the water at Laga orphanage, with a new SkyHydrant water filter until the new Gem filter arrives.**
- 2. Install a new SkyHydrant water filter at the Comoro High School (student population of 3,500).**
- 3. Install a new SkyHydrant water filter at the Atabae Bobonaro School run by the sisters (this school has the planned growth of over 700 students in the near future)**
- 4. Install a new SkyHydrant water filter at the Canossion Sisters school complex at Comoro (student population of 4,000).**

## **Project Report**

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### **Overview**

- The SkyHydrant water filters, including some that have been in operation now for over four years and supplying filtered water to the schools and communities, the water filters are working extremely well and are still in pristine condition. The modified sea container SkyHrdrant water filter has proven to be a show case of what can be done.
- The SkyHrdrant water filters are continuing to achieve great results, and the extent of sickness in the schools has decreased considerably due to now having clean potable drinking and cooking water. A great outcome!

- The GEM water filters and the modified sea container fitted with Skyhydrant water filters are not part of the Global Grant and are funded directly by Rotary clubs and private sponsors.

## **Project goals achieved.**

1. The faulty GEM water filter at the girl's orphanage Laga was replaced temporarily with a SkyHydrant water filter, the fault was caused by the high Calcium content in the water and will be treated with chemicals in the future to soften the calcium content.
2. Installed a new SkyHydrant water filter at the 30 August High School Comoro this is a public school with a student population of 3,500 plus teachers and some family's living on site.
3. The sisters at Atabae Bobonaro who had done the best preparation work of any where we have been yet to their sea container, we installed a SkyHydrant filter, the school will be expanding shortly to over 700 students.
4. We also installed a SkyHydrant water filter at the Canossion Sisters school complex Comoro with a student population of 4,000, the Canossion sisters were not far behind the Atabae sisters with the preparation work to the sea container has been done to a very high standard.

## **Acknowledgements**

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

Water for Hungry Months, (Doncaster Victoria) East Timor Roofing Holding Company Melbourne, RAWCS, Don Bosco Comoro and Disaster Aid Australia.

### **Rotary Clubs of:**

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

## **Future project works proposed**

1. Scope and cost the following  
Modify three sea containers with two internal tanks holding 1,000 litres of filtered water each and one 2,000 litre tank receiving unfiltered water, then gravity feeding the water to a Skyhydrant water filter

## **Activities Diary**

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

Arrived in Dili at 4.00 pm from Perth. Thanks to Paulo the project utility was waiting for me at the airport. I made a quick stop into Timor Telemor to organise our phone & internet services, then checked into Don Bosco Comoro, also had a meeting with Bother Adriano Re: The work program for the next few days.

## Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Held a meeting with AHHA (SOL's 24/7), Re; reconciling our account with them, plus an inspection of the SkyHydrant water filter and the new water tanks installed. All is working very well.



## Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Annelise & Duncan arrived on the 1430 Qantas flight helped them arrange their phone and internet connections and booked them into Don Bosco

## Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October

Topped up on some fittings for installing the SkyHydrant water filters and attended the training of wheel chair rugby at Don Bosco, we then attended the Rotary Club of Dili meeting.



## Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October

Traveled to Laga to temporarily exchange the Gem SkyHydrant at the orphanage that has failed due to high calcium content in the water, with a new SkyHydrant water filter, the water will require chemical treatment to soften the water. The sisters and the girls were extremely



happy as at last they had a more permanent supply of filtered potable water for cooking and drinking.



## Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October

Loaded up extra fittings from the RPTLE sea container and travelled to Venilale to inspect the Gem water filter installed and the sites to install two more Gem filters one to the boys boarding house and one to the girl's hospitality training centre, the Girls arranged a 5-star lunch provide by the training school that was well prepared as any I have had.



## Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October to Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October

Installed a SkyHydrant water filter to the high school 30 August Comoro with a student population of 3,500 place plus teachers and some family's living onsite. This is the first time we have built a security cage; I don't believe it is as efficient as the sea container, and the school principal was adamant he wanted the taps outside. This was far more costly than our usual installation.



### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October

Four hours from start to finish installing SkyHydrant water filter at Atabae Bobonaro, with a intend student population of 700 in the near future, the sisters have done a marvellous job preparing the sea container, it would be the best we have done so far



### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October

Installed a SkyHydrant water filter to the sea container the sisters at the Canossion school complex Comoro had prepared also to a very high standard, this school has a student population of 4,000





## Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October

Returned to the Canossian sisters for the official opening of the SkyHydrant filter



## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October

We inspect the School at Cristal School Balide (Dili) with a student population of 6,000 from Kindergarten to Master degree in the morning. then Annelise and Duncan returned to Australia on the afternoon plane,



## **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

Returned to Australia on the 8.05am flight out of Dili to Darwin, then the Darwin Perth Qantas flight @ 17.30 pm.

## **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

Returned to Australia on the 8.05am flight out of Dili to Darwin, then the Darwin Perth Qantas flight @ 17.30 pm.

***“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), and in particular, Annelise and Duncan Hedditch

### **Testing a Change of Approach**

Getting to and from Timor Leste is expensive, and our time there is always limited, so we are always working to make sure funds and time are well spent – which usually means getting as much done as possible. On this trip RPTLE has tested what could possibly be a new way of running projects. On all three installations we engaged Don Bosco Technical School’s Plumbing department to do the actual plumbing installation work on the all-new systems we installed. Supervised by their teachers, the students did an excellent job. On the 30 August High School job, they also assembled a tank-stand and built the security cage.

We will consider this option on future projects.

Accordingly, both the teachers and students from Don Bosco Comoro require a special mention.