



REPORT ON CONSTRUCTION OF WATER SYSTEM AT LEOHITU AUGUST 2025

General

Following is a pictorial report on the construction stages of the water supply system at Leohituschool in Timor-Leste.

The project was funded in the main by the Balibo House Trust.

Brian Boon, an engineer from the charity MiVAC, was the project supervisor.

Labourers were hired locally in Leohitu – in numbers as and when required.

Construction commenced on 30 July, and was completed on 10 August 2025.



Top platform of tank stand being fabricated (upside down).



Legs and bracing being added



Using chain block and A-frame to safely lift tank stand into upright position



Tank stand ready to be moved into position into the pre-dug holes.



The 300mm deep trench into which the 600m of 50mm poly pipe supply line will be laid.



Mario (left) and San (right) attaching 50mm gal pipe to the poly pipe – with the gal pipe to go under the road.



The gal pipe laid in the trench where the road passes over.



Mario trying out the tap installed below the new school building on the hill.



New taps installed on the “water troughs”



Three of the volunteers presented a welder & helmet, plus clothes, books and colouring pens & pencils. From L to R: Allan Wilding, Dr Octavia Amaral (Dentist), Rofina Aifunan (Finance & Admin Officer), Angela Soares (Local Coordinator – Balibo 5 Community), John Flood, OAM, and Mario O Soares (Security & Maintenance)



The work team (Left to Right): Brian Boon, Peter McCormack, Allan Wilding, Rino Fernandes, Mario Soares, John Flood OAM, Santana Afonso

John, Allan and Peter were able to donate one week of their valuable time to help. Thank you three very much. Your help and contributions were very much appreciated



Water supply pipe from spring is laying on top of concrete from left of photo, then through gate valve into pump.

Bottom pipe from dirty water tank, has pipe going into the concrete to the main toilets, with the smaller pipe at the base of the photo going to the rear toilet block.

(Note: Protective concrete blocks have been installed around these pipes.)



The pump installed inside the shelter house. Separate switch away from the power socket – for safe access, but to also make it obvious.



The SkyHydrant Ultra-filtration unit plumbed in and bolted to shelter house wall



Absorption pit filled with gravel outside shelter house – to take backwash and over-filling water.



Local neighbour INSIDE the existing clean water tank – washing it and removing about 25mm depth of sandy silt off the bottom. (Note the colour of the water he is standing in.)



We added a mounting block and a new power point in a classroom., so we could hard-wire in our power supply to the pump.



Power cable encased in conduit coming into shelter house.



Ella conducting SkyHydrant training



Ella conducting SkyHydrant training

Extra Works:



Note the swampy, muddy, smelly conditions around the path to this toilet block? The waste water is coming from the wash room in property next door!

Also, lock cannot be opened on left side door.



Path built up to existing path, but gap left for water to drain away.

And excess soil from tower footings used as fill around new path.



Old door lock (which could not be opened) drilled out, and new lock installed on door to a toilet room at rear of classroom



Female bathroom in main school building. Basins supported by timber; and taps broken.



Same basins – no outlet drain and flexible inlet pipes broken



We removed the basins and San installed extra long screws in the brackets.



Basins cleaned and re-hung, and new taps and one [now two] flexible line installed.

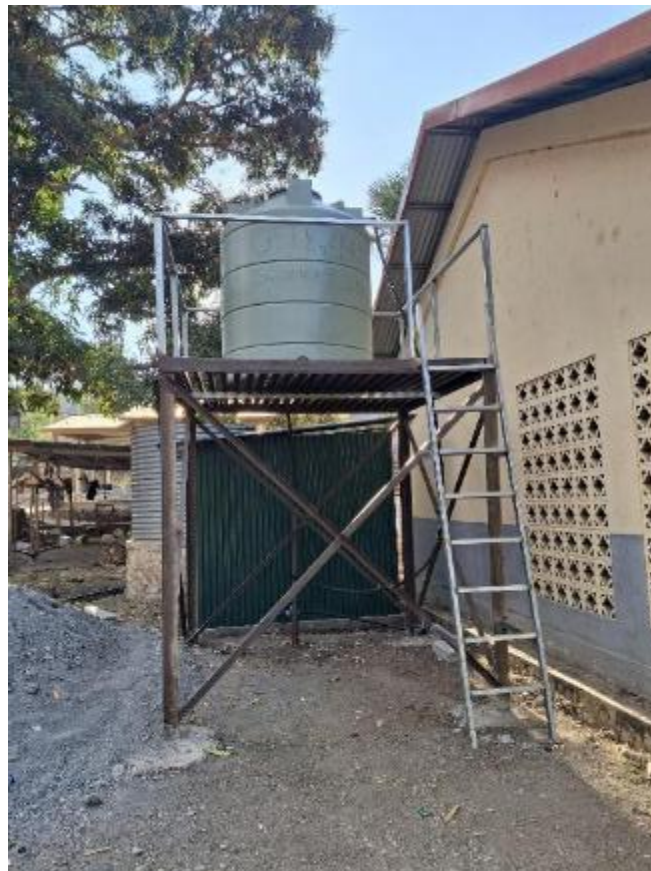
Need trip to Dili to purchase & replace drain outlets.



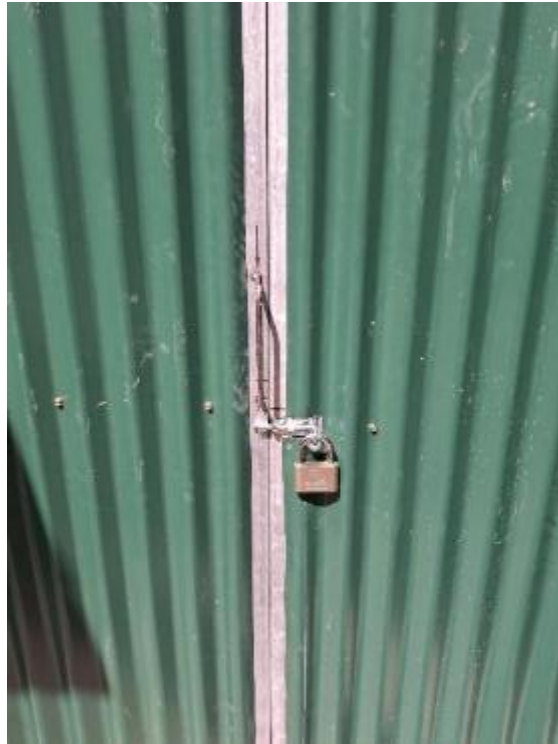
Basin cleaned in male bathroom, with new flexible line and tap.



New taps installed over the “bowl” from which they scoop water for their squat toilets.



The “dirty water tank” installed on the tank stand, with ladder and safety rails.



Big lock on shelter house door



Happy Headmaster – water now flowing to rear toilets



And to basins at rear toilets



And to the “tanks” from which water ladled into squat toilets



The writing on the tank says it all:

Leohitu School

OBRIGADU

BALIBO HOUSE TRUST

("Obrigadu" means Thank you)



Formal handover of the keys to the “pump house”

Report by:

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14 August 2025