



Chairman's Report – AGM - 25 October 2025

Welcome

Welcome to all those attending, including those members attending via links.

TIMOR-LESTE - PROJECTS SUMMARY

You might recall that we completed a reconnaissance survey in Timor-Leste in April 2024, and following that, I completed designs for the “dirty water” tank stands, the “shelter house” which houses the electric pumps and the SkyHydrant filtration system, as well as pipe and tank requirements.

I then also completed the list of materials required for water supply systems for the Leohitu school and the Balibo Community Learning Centre (CLC).

Material prices and availability were then sought from the main supplier in Dili, but this became a frustrating exercise, due to confusion in parts descriptions, and availability, as well as time spent waiting for responses from the supplier. Eventually we did agree on the materials offered, and Balibo House trust (BHT) paid the initial deposit.

I travelled to Dili on 21 July this year, and spent the first 4 days sorting out the materials and getting them trucked up to Balibo (on two separate trucks).

John Flood (another MiVAC member) and his two nephews, Peter McCormack and Allan Wilding, arrived on 25 July, and we checked out various suppliers around Dili, as well as the port facility, and the Resistance Museum (very sad history).

Then off to Balibo to get the work underway at Leohitu.

John and his team presented BHT with a new welder and helmet, plus a stack of welding rods. They also donated a range of clothes, books and pencils etc. The CLC staff were very pleased to receive these, and will make sure needy children get them.

Peter is a welder, and took charge of getting the tank stand built, while the rest of us worked on getting the water from a spring some 600 metres away.

John, Peter and Allan – thank you all very much for your contributions and support.

We provided clean water to the school's drinking water troughs, and also connected the school's toilets and handbasins to running water, as well as other minor jobs.

We then moved to the Balibo CLC and completed similar work there.

Full pictorial reports are available on our website. A summary of work achieved is as follows:

PROJECTS COMPLETED

Leohitu School – SkyHydrant System & Bathrooms

Impact: Reliable safe water for students and staff. Safer access to toilets with new concrete path raised out of the mud. The main tank was labelled “Obrigadu Balibó House Trust” (or Thank you) – which shows community gratitude.

Completed works:

- 600 m poly pipe line from spring; new tank stand; SkyHydrant shelter and pump; absorption pit; electrical supply, new taps to water troughs and water connected.
- Existing gal tank taken off stand, cleaned out, and put back on stand.
- Rear toilets and troughs connected.
- Extra repairs: raised path, replaced lock, re-hung basins with new taps/flexible lines, taps at squat bowls.
- Main bathroom basin taps and taps and squatbowls connected and water running.
- School staff refresher training conducted on SkyHydrant operation & maintenance.
- Installed tap at sports ground.

NB: Main school bathroom handbasin drains remain broken, undermining hygiene and risking sustainability of the system. Waste water being collected in buckets. (May be problem locating suitable fittings in T-L.)

Recommended next: School to fund and carry out repairs on main bathrooms (supply & install drain outlets).

Balibó CLC – SkyHydrant Water System

Impact: Reliable clean water now available to dental clinic, volunteer house, and kitchen even during town outages. [Town water supply is sometimes available for only 1 day per week, so we used an existing 3,200L tank as a holding tank, from which water could

be pumped up to the “dirty water” tank.] Provided running water to toilets and basins at the CLC.

Completed works:

- Shelter house, pump, SkyHydrant installed. System commissioned
- Existing galvanised tank used as pre-holding, pumped then to 3,200 L dirty tank.
- Dirty tank gravity-fed through SkyHydrant into 1,200 L clean tank, tied into existing distribution for clinic, kitchen, volunteer house.
- Dirty tank also connected to Profile tank (900 L) for general washing/watering and new 600 L toilet block tank.
- Toilets and handbasins in toilet block connected to the new tank.

Recommended next: Continue staff training for SkyHydrant operation and maintenance.

Other Small Jobs Completed at CLC

- CLC: Re-attached external powerpoint, fixed volunteer house door catch, repaired basin drain with epoxy, replaced leaking shower valve/line, kitchen tap filter cleaned, so water flow ok now.
- Toilet block: Connected basins and toilets to new 600L tank.
- Storeroom: Cleared out with Ella, Rofina, and Mario.
- CLC grounds cleaned up

Recommended next:

- Finish storeroom reorganisation with shelving. (Since done)
- Ensure Mario continues routine small maintenance.
- Volunteer house: Broken fridge, old cistern, stove needed. → Replace.
- Toilet block: Replace 1x close coupled cistern. Repair ceiling sheets, and paint.

Other Small Jobs Completed

- Inspected a break in the main water supply line to Fort Hotel (caused by truck rolling over down hill) with hotel manager and provided recommendations to hotel manager.
- Provided suggestions on how to make Fort Hotel generator run more efficiently

DELIVERY CHALLENGES

- Lack of consistent and effective worker supervision by local supervisors reduced efficiency.
- Material procurement errors caused delays and extra trips.
- Cultural differences / local and inter-community politics

CHALLENGES RISKS/ALERTS

- **SkyHydrants need ongoing maintenance:** Instruction manual is a bit complex; locals may skip steps. Suggested to BHT: Weekly checks by CLC staff - first month, then monthly x2, then quarterly.
- **Septic systems not being maintained:** CLC and Leohitu tanks never pumped; effluent leaking. → Hire septic truck from Dili.
- **Vehicles:** No routine checks on oil/water etc ; Toyota ute overdue for service. Damaged fender & door.
- **Drivers:** Mario weak at driving, especially reversing. → Training and checks required.
- **Poor CLC maintenance:** Longstanding minor faults (lights out, clutter); pests etc

LESSONS / REFLECTIONS

- **Materials:** Miscommunications with Vinod Patel; stock availability. → Add photos to orders, plan ahead, use alternative suppliers.
- **Transport:** Pipes/steel pre-cut before transport caused confusion; trucks too short. → Ship whole lengths with overhang.
- **Water testing:** No testing done though springs look clear. → Test regularly in wet and dry seasons (BTL or kits).
- **Generator:** Local powerpoints inadequate for welding. → Always use CLC generator (9.5 kVA).
- **Cash handling:** US\$5,000 float worked; but \$1 notes not accepted at villages. → Bring \$1 coins for worker pays (as well as folding \$5 notes & above).
- **Financial recording:** Many suppliers don't issue receipts. → Use CLC numbered receipt book, reconcile weekly.

PROJECT EXPENDITURE

The following funds were expended to complete the above works:

	Materials	Worker Pays	Admin	Vehicle
MiVAC			\$3,746	
BHT	\$19,524	\$4,982	\$2,523	\$350

POSSIBLE PROJECT WORKS FOR 2026 IN TIMOR-LESTE

Project Area	Project Description
Balibo Cede Suco and School water supply	A complete installation, including lines across road to school. (Lines to include 1 for drinking & 1 for washing & flushing toilets) Water source: Tapping saddle from line outside Cede Suco
Batugade Cede Suco and School water supply	A complete installation, including lines to school. (Lines to include 1 for drinking & 1 for washing & flushing toilets) Water source: Bore
Palaka School water supply	Minor repairs to existing system
Belola School water supply	Modifications to existing system
Badut Mean school water supply	A complete installation, including lines to school. (Lines to include 1 for drinking & 1 for washing & flushing toilets) Water source: Bore
Lotan village water supply	Repairs to existing water supply line damaged in floods. Possible extension of clean water to western part of village, or sinking a bore.
Fatuk Laran spring	Works to prevent animal contamination of existing spring
Balibo Hospital Maternity Ward – water supply	Installation of pump and pipes (tanks & stand existing)
Balibo Hospital Maternity Ward - ceiling repairs etc	Removal and upgrade of mouldy ceiling linings Rectify roof leaks Replace missing wall tiles in birthing rooms?
Balibo Hospital Maternity Ward – Admin	Items to consider, including ongoing aspects: • Increase midwife staffing levels • Improve midwife training • Visiting midwives and/or obs/gyn doctors • Improve instrument supply • Examine drug supply(?) • Examine repairs needed to ambulance

Note: Works priorities need to be agreed with BHT and local authorities.

Assessments of future potential projects

Balibó Hospital – Maternity Ward

Completed: Site inspection and detailed report.

Concerns: Many deaths of newborn babies. Mothers and newborns exposed to serious health risks from mouldy, water-damaged ceilings. Unsafe birthing environment due to leaks, rusted battens, and unreliable water supply. Urgent need for remediation to ensure safe and hygienic services. Lack of necessary equipment. Midwife training very limited.

Recommended next:

- Roof: Refit ridge capping, seal, notch, secure, add sheet turn-ups.
- Ceilings: Replace plywood with PVC panels (~US\$742 - plus screws, battens, transport, labour, etc), replace damaged battens.
- Water: Install SkyHydrant system with existing tanks and Gould pump (~US\$460), plus shelter house, new pipes & power supply
- Wall tiles: Remove loose tiles & install new wall tiles
- Secure approvals and funding: (Balibó Hospital Director has advised he can provide letter of approval. Request for approval assistance emailed to T-L Consul in Sydney.)
- Attempt to gain unused equipment for NSW Health Department. (Email sent to Department al Secretary and Chief Midwife of NSW Health.)
- Attempt to get training by Australian midwives/doctors.

Fatuk Laran Spring

Completed: Inspection and design proposal.

Concerns: Spring water is currently unsafe due to animal contamination and runoff. Inlet frequently blocked by nappies and leaves, risking total supply interruption. Community health vulnerable to waterborne illness.

Recommended next: Repair/close fence gaps, add mesh to gate. Build mortar/stone diversion wall. Deepen drains to divert runoff. Fence upper spring area, add second diversion wall. Fit stainless steel mesh to pipe inlet. Materials cost: ~US\$1,600 (use villager labour).

Lotan Village Water Supply

Completed: Site inspection and report.

Concerns: Around 1,000 residents lack adequate water; main line broken, hill tank stagnant, small spring inadequate. Water insecurity likely forcing longer walks for women and children. Unusable infrastructure puts community health and wellbeing at risk.

Recommended next: Replace broken gal pipe, install flood-resistant line. Add SkyHydrant and clean tank downstream of hill tank. Plan dual supply (spring water for washing & toilets, SkyHydrant water for drinking). Extend system to west side (via Budin Bridge or suspended pipe, or own well?). Confirm population split east/west for distribution planning.

Batugade Cede Suco Water Supply

Completed: Site inspection and (**previous**) report.

Concerns: Current well feeds Cede Suco plus Police Post. Well output volume unknown, but chefe said limited. Small, poor quality pumps; poor, unsafe power supply set up. Local school about 200m away has no clean water.

Recommended next: Sink bore in SW corner of compound - away from well. Plan dual supply (spring water for washing & toilets, SkyHydrant water for drinking). Extend system to adjacent school.

Balibo Cede Suco Water Supply

Completed: **Previous** site inspection and report.

Concerns: No supply at the Balibo Cede Suco. Local school about 200m away across road has no clean water.

Recommended next: Connect via breaching piece into water line outside Cede Suco. Plan dual supply (spring water for washing & toilets, SkyHydrant water for drinking). Extend system to adjacent school.

Minor Repairs at Palaka and Belola Schools

Completed: **Previous** site inspection and reports

Concerns: Current systems not fully utilised or not efficient. Some items broken.

Recommended next: Undertake the minor repairs as recommended.

THANK YOU's

I would like to thank our Board members and Executive Committee members for their contributions and support over the last year, and in particular:

- Lee Uebergang – for his input and counsel on a wide range of issues, and for keeping me on track through the year.
- Morrie Evans – for his work on our books of account and sorting out bank admin
- Lyn Clark – as our Secretary and help with finances
- Robyn Waters – for all things IT she has managed to sort out for us

That concludes my Chairman's Report for 2025. This report also covers the Project Officer's Report.

I wish you all a merry Christmas, and a safe and prosperous 2026.

Brian Boon, MCS
Chairman

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