

REPORT ON BALIBO HOSPITAL WATER SUPPLY

Herein is a photographic report on the Balibo Hospital water supply project.



This is the site selected and agreed with Hospital Director at the rear of the Hospital for the “clean” water tank, and the shelter house which will contain the SkyHydrant. Note the concrete tank stand has no side walls (where rubbish is stacked next to Sanh).



*Existing tank stand, with recently installed (not by us) 5,200 litre tank on top.
Dirty yellow tank in front will be replaced.*



Old tank removed; sides bricked up; and new slab laid on top



Tank stand rendered; shelter house, slab and steps constructed.

Original Conditions



Handbasin in nurses' room. Tap missing handle; flexible line not connected & broken; drain pipe broken off



No tap over water tank, but stick inserted to stop flow. Stick was removed to fill tank. Water is scooped from tank with pink bucket to flush toilet.



A toilet in the outside area used by the public. No tap over the tank, and no tap and pipe supplying water to the cistern. Toilet bowl broken. Floor filthy and very smelly.



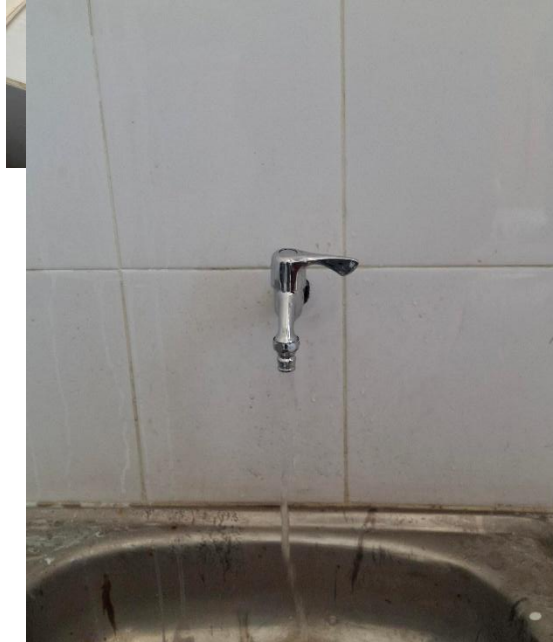
Water tank in maternity ward from which water is normally scooped to flush toilet. Tap broken.



*Hand washing station at front of hospital, which was not connected to a water supply.
It is now connected. (Built originally by UNICEF)*

New Works





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Several taps replaced, and water now running



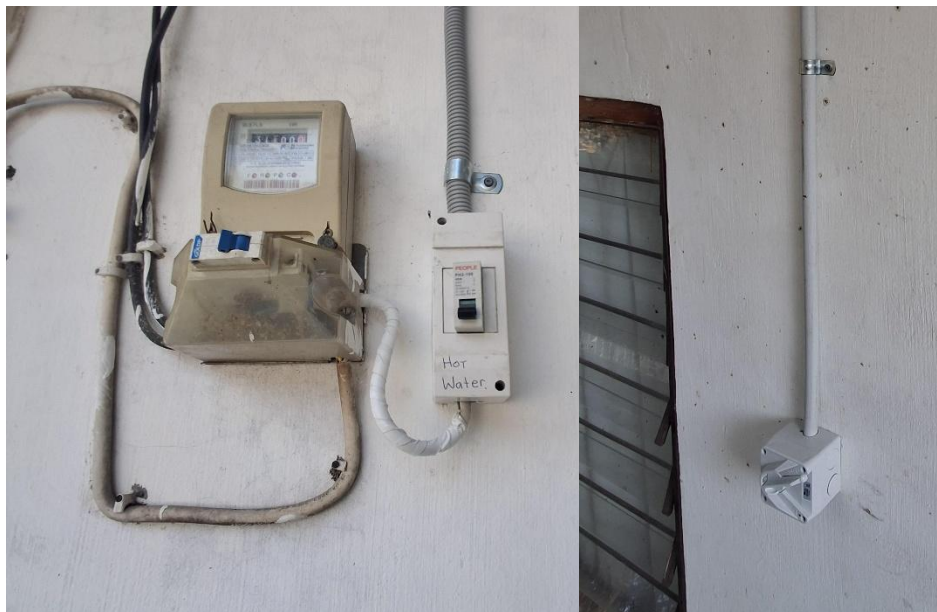
Flexible hose replaced, but drain needs replacing. (Staff are using a temporary bucket.)



Water flowing at hand washing station



Completed work. Green holding tank ("dirty" water), with water flowing through SkyHydrant in shelter shed, and then to the yellow ("clean" water) tank, which is in turn connected to the Maternity Ward.



New circuit breaker, wiring, and isolator switch installed for planned new hot water system at Maternity ward



*New washing machined donated by John Flood – for use by maternity ward
for washing bed sheets etc*

Water Supply Issues

Currently, there is a 20mm poly pipe running from outside the fence of the new 390,000 litre water tank on the hill (where the Interfet tanks had been placed) to the Hospital.

Unfortunately, locals are stealing water by cutting or opening this pipe to gain water for themselves.

To reduce the stealing, BTL (the local water authority) has been turning off all taps running from the tank. But clearly this meant that the hospital was receiving little or no water.

I requested a meeting with the Balibo Sub-District Administrator, the BTL Coordinator, and the Hospital Director, with Rino translating.

The Administrator admitted that a Ministry of Health Directive stated water had to be supplied 24/7, but acknowledged that was not being met. After some discussion my suggestion was agreed that:

- BTL turn on the tap for 3 hours per day,
- BTL advise the Hospital of the hours the tap will be turned on, and
- The Hospital will provide a security person to be on site near the tank, to reduce the chances of people stealing water.

Training



Training on operating and maintaining the SkyHydrant filter being run by Ella for Hospital staff



Hospital staff training on how to clean the SkyHydrant filter



Materials supplied by the H2Osborn project to maintain the SkyHydrant

Financials:

The budget for the hospital project was \$US 1,391, which included the Contingency sum.

Actual expenditure was \$US 2,548.

Causes for the over-budget expenditure were:

- Much of the required materials for the hospital are in the 20ft shipping container that was still at Dili wharf. This meant that materials for the hospital were needed to be purchased in Timor-Leste. BUT, it also means that much of the materials for our 2027 projects will already be available from the container.
- Labour cost was underestimated at 4 days x 4 pers x \$7/day (total \$US112). Actual was \$US293.
- 9 kinks in the poly pipe from the tank on the hill to the hospital were located and repaired – requiring labour to locate & repair, plus fittings purchased

- A large tree had fallen over the section of gal supply pipe, which was reducing the flow rate to the hospital. New poly pipe was cut in above the damage and run to the hospital tank – requiring labour to locate & repair, plus pipe and fittings purchased

Works Still Required

The following works are still required, and could be completed in 2027:

- BTL install a tapping saddle on the new town water mains (timing unknown)
- BTL to turn on the taps to the new town water mains (timing unknown)
- A new high pressure pipe to be run from the new tapping saddle to the inlet of the “dirty” water tank, and the old piping removed (pipes and fittings held in the shipping container.).
- A hot water system, shower head, piping and taps to be installed at the maternity ward (materials held in the shipping container)
- Some basin outlets in maternity ward and main building to be installed
- Basin in Laboratory to be replaced (also in container)
- Toilet to be replaced at Leohitu maternity ward (also in container)

Estimate of cost for the above work:

- Labour – 1 supervisor @ \$20/day + 2 pers @ \$7/day – all for 3 days = \$US102
- Materials –basin outlets, pvc pipe, sink mixers - \$US250

Maternity Wing Roof Ridge Capping

Happy to report that the Australian Army Defence Cooperation Program staff from Dili have recently replaced the ridge capping – using the materials we purchased last visit.

Thank you DCP-TL.





Brian Boon, MCS
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Chairman
25 October 2026