



## APPLICATION BULLETIN: TIMOR-LESTE

**Background:** The commissioning of another SkyHydrant water filtration unit in Timor-Leste illustrates how Siemens' employee donated funds have been used for an ethical and sustainable project whilst also contributing to the Millennium Development Goals.

On the United Nations Human Development Index, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste is among the poorest countries in Asia and the United Nations estimates that only 20% of the population has access to safe water.

**The Need:** The water was tested at Hera School prior to filtration and high levels of E. Coli were detected. In Timor-Leste one of the highest causes of childhood morbidity and mortality is diarrhea. These children are already severely malnourished so they have little chance to fit diarrhea or water borne diseases.

Previously, water was purchased from the capital Dili, which was a financial burden and logistically difficult for the school in Hera to maintain. When the funds were unavailable to buy water, existing water supplies were treated with the World Health Organization recommended tablets. Parents of the children did not want their children drinking this treated water, as they could smell it, and due to previous traumatic history of water sources being poisoned, this was not a viable alternative.



**The Outcome:** This project using a SkyHydrant water filtration unit, directly supplies clean, safe water to 200 children. The local community has access to the water after hours through the school guard/grounds man.

The donated funds from Siemens Water Technology employees enabled Life, Love and Health (LL&H) a volunteer based Australian Registered charity, to provide a complete water filtration system for the community. LL & H provided the balance of funding and ancillary



equipment, project management and education to make the project a reality. LL& H are committed to community development in Timor-Leste. Their grassroots projects assist the Timorese people to address their fundamental needs and aspirations as they move forward through difficult challenges to their independent future. LL & H instituted repetitive intensive training for the school grounds man, who is responsible for maintenance of the SkyJuice system. This is essential for the project to have community responsibility and ownership, and hence sustainability. Life, Love & Health will provide support as required.

Providing safe drinking water to this school is an enormous success for this community. The donor funding and SkyJuice system also ensures that funds previously allocated to buying water can be re-directed to other needs within the school, and there are many.

LL & H requested that we pass on the following message.

*Please let your donors know that this project has changed the lives of hundreds of children and their families. We will be launching this project later in the year with other projects we are completing at the school, and I will make sure I send some more pictures then.*



One of the children in the Hera District who will benefit from access to free, safe water



The SkyHydrant is a valuable community asset and the committee has ensured that it is kept safe with protective fencing.