



APPLICATION BULLETIN: TIMOR-LESTE INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS CAMPS

Background: The commissioning of a further three SkyHydrant water filtration units in Timor-Leste is another example of how SkyJuice™ has used the Siemens' CRA funds for ethical and sustainable projects whilst assisting those most in need and contributing to the Millennium Development Goals. In January 2008, the SkyJuice Foundation worked in partnership with UNICEF and Australian Aid International (AAI), to undertake the first safe water project in Timor-Leste utilising the SkyHydrant™ water filtration unit.

On the United Nations Human Development Index, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste is among the poorest countries in Asia and is ranked 140th. More than 40% of the population live below the poverty line and the per capita income was US\$460 in 2002. The United Nations estimates that only 20% of the population has access to safe water and only 15% to sanitation facilities. The violence that followed Independence in 2002 led to the destruction of the health and water infrastructure. (World Health Organisation - May 2006).

Under the backdrop of violence which followed Timor-Leste's Independence in 2002 and the turmoil of the ongoing years, Timor-Leste's ethnically based population has been largely displaced and there are some 30,000 thousand East Timorese living in 36 major International Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps throughout the capital of Dili.

Lack of Basic Infrastructure: Due to the destruction of local water infrastructure the majority of IDP camps are without access to safe drinking water. The water available is contaminated with fecal coliforms and unsuitable for drinking. Steel water towers were erected to provide the necessary height for the SkyHydrant to operate. At the base of the water tower, the SkyHydrant is housed in a protective steel



Living conditions for families living in an IDP camp



Water management committee commissioning the SkyHydrant in the protective steel enclosure

enclosure secured with a padlock, to protect the unit and allow access for maintenance by Water Committee Groups.

On-site training was provided for major stake-holders and Water Management Committee delegates by Larry James, Projects Director volunteer from the SkyJuice™ Foundation. Operation and maintenance of the SkyHydrant™ and the importance of regular servicing in order to guarantee efficiency was emphasised during the training and quickly grasped by the Water Committee.

The official handover to UNICEF in February 2008 means that Clean Water is now available to the displaced communities living at the IDP communities of Balide-Canossian, Fatumeta and the Transitional camp of Becora Unital.

Immediate Results: All three camps now have a SkyHydrant™ water filtration system. A main collection tank is used to store 'raw' water from underground bores, gravity fed into the SkyHydrant and out to the potable water storage tank. Siemens membrane technology is crucial to achieve the high quality drinking water. The filtered water is then made available for use from a bank of clean water tap stands of each camp.

Water tankers are no longer required to be used, saving the camp management groups thousands of dollars per month. The quality of water and frequency of delivery are issues that no longer create frustration and tension within the camps. The cost of a single SkyHydrant™ represents one month supply of water. The people living in the IDP camps now have a cost effective and safe drinking water source ensuring that there is no illness due to water borne diseases.

This safe water project in Timor-Leste exemplifies how the Siemens CRA funds are reaching the poor through sustainable partnerships using Siemens worlds' best technology at the grass roots level.



The SkyHydrant is secured in a steel enclosure to ensure that this valuable equipment is safe and ready for use



SkyJuice Projects Director, Larry James instructs the Water Committee in maintenance and operations procedures



Children now have continual free and easy access to safe water where once there was competition and conflict at water collection points.