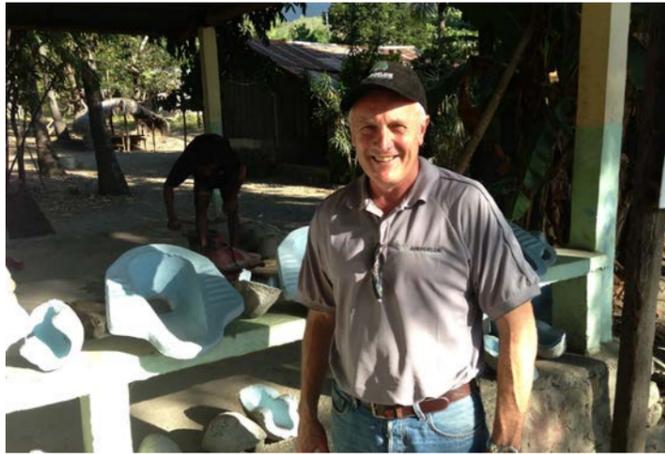


# MICK VISITS TIMOR LESTE

- WITH WATERAID, AUGUST 2013



Mick at the WaterAid toilet factory

In August this year I had the privilege of representing Abergeldie as part of the Australian water industry in Timor-Leste. The water industry raises money for WaterAid, and Abergeldie is a contributor.

WaterAid transforms lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation in the world's poorest communities. WaterAid works with people in 27 countries in Africa, Asia, the Pacific region and Central America.

WaterAid in Timor-Leste has been operating in the Liquica district (one of 13 districts situated 35km west of Dili) since 2007.

The district is home to over 63,000 people, of those 92% live in rural areas. By the year 2012 WaterAid and its partners have provided an estimated 12,206 people with access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene services. WaterAid and partners have contributed to an approximate increase of 20% coverage with improved drinking water sources and sanitation by 2013.



The beautiful kids of the village



At the WaterAid office in Dili

The country is one of the world's poorest with high infant and maternal mortality rates. Timor-Leste has made spectacular progress in reducing its under-5 mortality from 12% to 6.5%

The trip in August included senior executives from companies such as Degremont, Gosford City Council, Yarra Valley Water, Guidera O'Connor, Permeate Partners, Trility, University of Queensland, Interflow and John Holland.

On the trip I visited the Pre-WASH village of Lunguslete. To travel to the project we drive 35km west of Dili then 6km dirt road. The trip takes over 90 minutes to travel. The existing water supply has a piped water facility dating from the Indonesian period, which is now largely damaged and non-functional. Many rely on a nearby stream about an hours' walk away. Most of the community do not have toilets and have no alternative other than to using bushes and streams.

Due to open defecation practices the water source is vulnerable to contamination. A community Action plan and



Being greeted at a highland village

Water User Group (GMF) has been formed and planning started.

The WASH program stands for Water and Sanitation and Hygiene.

The following day I visited the Post-WASH village of Laguleur located about two and a half hours drive from Dili. The project benefits 178 people.

Before implementation of WASH the community didn't have any piped water supply facilities and were facing extreme hardship for water. The water from the closest stream, an hours' walk away was polluted.

The community had one shared toilet. Due to the Timor-Leste climate and flooding, open defecation was a potential source of contamination for communities located downstream.



With the WaterAid representative at a highland village



The toilets provided through the WaterAid process

The system implemented in the Lunguslete village involved a multi reservoir gravity flow system built by community participation in the design process and contribution of local materials as well as construction works (labour and mason) with technical support from implementing partner Malaedoi.

The pipe line is 1.4km and there are 10 public stand posts, 26 toilets and awareness on handwashing and tippy tap facilities.

The village spokesperson was very grateful for the help they had been given to improve their village and lives. He asked us to continue to help adjoining villages so they get the same benefits.

This is a wonderful thing WaterAid do. Abergeldie is helping them to build a better community in Timor-Leste.

Mick Boyle.



The WaterAid office in Dili



A tap stand provided through the WaterAid process