



## Water for Life

**Budget:** \$10,743. Fully funded.

**Update:**

This is the first phase of a WASH project in West Timor providing household water from a known water source to points near each home in a community of 161 families. In addition to this, our partners have assisted the community in increased awareness, understanding and positive behavior change in the areas of water use, sanitation and hygiene.

Initially, much time and energy was put into facilitating Involvement of the community. This revealed problems and obstacles within the community and so there was a need for multiple meetings and time together to experience reconciliation.

Notwithstanding these challenges, the project has made slow but steady progress. The spring box was built to harness the spring and four water storage tanks were built and connected to the pipework. These tanks will capture the flow of the spring water and be able to store it for the long, dry season. Pumps were purchased and installed to lift water to the communities at the top end of the village. Even before the taps were connected, there was great celebration as the water flowed through the system into the village (see photo, top right).

The community has been supplying skilled and general labour although it has often been difficult to get enough workers on the ground at the right time to accomplish the work required. However, this has improved throughout the year and increased involvement has helped foster community ownership.

Our partners hope to be able to complete the project in the next six months and hand the responsibility over to the community. A local village committee has been elected to handle the management and maintenance of the system. They will be registered officially with the government, making them eligible for funding but also able to collect contributions from the community to fund repairs and maintenance.

Thank you for your part in helping to empower this community to access clean water and to improve sanitation, hygiene and livelihoods for all involved.

