

## **Completion Report on the Installation of SkyHydrant Water Filtration Systems in Monastic Institutions in Bhutan**

### **Introduction**

The Department of Culture and Dzongkha Development (DCDD), in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Thimphu (RCT) and Disaster Aid Australia (DAA)-and their generous sponsors- has successfully implemented a water purification initiative through the installation of SkyHydrant filtration systems in selected monastic institutions.

This initiative was carried out at Dechenphug Lhakhang, Dechenphodrang Lobdra, and Sangchen Choekhor Lhakhang with the primary objective of ensuring access to safe and clean drinking water for monks, students, and residents.

Access to potable water is essential for maintaining health, hygiene, and overall well-being, particularly in monastic institutions where communities live and study in close proximity. The installation of clean water systems represents a significant step toward improving water quality and supporting sustainable living conditions in these religious and educational centers.

This report presents the successful completion of the project, highlighting the collaborative efforts of the partner organizations and the positive impact of the initiative on the beneficiary institutions.

### **18 March 2026 – Classroom training on Safe Water Filtration Systems**

Prior to installation of the SkyHydrant system, Brian Ashworth, Chief Executive Office of DAA, conducted a day-long technical session on safe drinking water principles, installation requirements for the SkyHydrant system, and the operational characteristics of the Smart Aid UltraFilter, including a comparative explanation of the two filtration technologies. The session addressed key technical considerations for proper installation, operation, and long-term functionality of the systems in field conditions. Participants included officials from the Department of Culture and Dzongkha Development, Ministry of Education and Skill Development, Rotary Club of Thimphu, and representatives from private firms.

Fig.1: Photos from classroom theory session



*Fig.1: Photos from classroom theory session*

### **23 March 2026 – Installation at Dechenphodrang Lobdra – sponsored by the Rotary Club of Traralgon**

Due to the ongoing hostel construction at Dechenphodrang, the Lobdra is currently operating from a temporary location at Nima Higher Secondary School in Taba. The site already had an established tank house supplying water to multiple buildings, which facilitated the installation process.

The installation commenced with the identification of the existing pipeline supplying water to key areas, particularly the kitchen and dining hall. To ensure proper protection of the filtration unit, a temporary shed was constructed using timber and CGI sheets.

The existing head tank was effectively utilized, and an additional tank for filtered water storage was installed. The SkyHydrant filtration system was then integrated into the existing water distribution network to ensure efficient and reliable supply of safe drinking water.

It is planned that the filtration system will be relocated to Dechenphodrang Lobdra once the construction works are completed. Upon installation, the system is expected to benefit more than 316 monks and Lams, significantly improving access to safe drinking water at the institution.



*Fig.4: Location of the filter on google map*



*Fig.5: Existing water tanks*



*Fig.6: Temporary shed for the filter*



*Fig.7: Kitchen-dining space connected with filtered water*



*Fig.8: Performing ritual on the inaugural day*

## **Conclusion**

The collaborative effort between the Department of Culture and Dzongkha Development, the Rotary Club of Thimphu and Disaster Aid Australia has successfully resulted in the installation of SkyHydrant water filtration systems at three key monastic institutions: Dechenphug Lhakhang, Dechenphodrang Lobdra(sponsored by the Rotary Club of Traralgon), and Sangchen Choekhor Lhakhang(sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Maroondah and Warrandyte-Donvale).

These installations have been carefully planned and executed to ensure optimal placement, efficient water distribution, and minimal disruption to the cultural and visual integrity of each Lhakhang. The systems are expected to benefit a wide range of stakeholders, including monks, Lams, workers, daily visitors, and trekkers along pilgrimage routes, providing safe and reliable drinking water while reducing dependence on bottled water and plastic waste.

This initiative demonstrates the effectiveness of partnership-driven projects in improving access to clean water within Bhutanese monastic communities. The successful completion of these installations not only addresses immediate water needs but also promotes sustainable practices and enhances the well-being of the monastic communities and their surrounding areas. Building on this success, additional SkyHydrant systems are planned to be installed in more monastic institutions in the near future, further expanding the reach and impact of this initiative.

## **Acknowledgement**

The successful installation of the SkyHydrant water filtration systems at Dechenphodrang Lobdra (sponsored by RC Traralgon) and Sangchen Choekhor Lhakhang (sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Maroondah and Warrandyte-Donvale) was made possible through the generous support and dedicated collaboration of Rotary Club of Thimphu and Disaster Aid Australia. Their commitment to improving access to safe drinking water has created a lasting benefit for monks, staff, and visitors at both institutions.

Special appreciation is extended to Mr Brian Ashworth, CEO of Disaster Aid Australia for sharing practical knowledge, guiding the installation process, and ensuring that the systems were properly commissioned for long term use.