

# RANO WASH

## RURAL ACCESS TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE



RANO WASH / Photos : Dahery Razaka Rafenomanana

### **FY2021 Quarterly Report** **October 1 to December 31, 2020**

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## Rural Access to New Opportunities in Water, Sanitation, And Hygiene

### FY2021 Quarterly Report

### October 1 to December 31, 2020

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**FRONT PICTURE:** The VSLA group, named Taratra in Andrainjato - Haute Matsiatra region, was set up in August 2020 and now has 26 members. The organization is now well-functioning, and its members enjoy the benefits of their subscription. This group managed to grant loans to half of its members, only three months after its creation (Photo credit: RANO WASH)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms and Abbreviations.....	ii
1 Project Overview/Summary.....	1
1.1 Project Description/Introduction.....	1
2 Activity Implementation Progress.....	3
2.1 Implementation Status.....	3
2.1.1 Strategic Objective 1: Governance and Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Strengthened for Sustainable and Equitable WASH Service Delivery. ....	5
2.1.2 Strategic Objective 2: Increasing Private-Sector Engagement in Delivering WASH Services 13	
2.1.3 Strategic Objective 3: Accelerating the Adoption of Health Behaviors and Use of WASH Services.....	26
2.2 Gender Mainstreaming.....	34
2.3 Implementation Challenges and Modifications Made/Issues Addressed from the Last Quarterly Report.....	37
3 Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL).....	39
3.1 Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) Update.....	39
3.2 MEAL System Update.....	39
3.2.1 MEAL Capacity Building.....	39
3.3 Midterm review.....	40
3.4 Accountability.....	41
4 Management and Administrative Issues.....	42
5 Financial Management.....	43
List of Annexes.....	44

### List of Tables

Table 1. Summary progress toward key indicators Q1.21 Update.....	3
Table 2. Summary of progress towards key SO1 indicators Q2.20 Update.....	5
Table 3. Summary progress toward key SO2 indicators Q1.21 Update.....	14
Table 4.APS and APD Studies Q1.21 Update.....	16
Table 5. Number of people gaining access to basic and safely managed drinking water services Q1,21 .....	18
Table 6. Number of people gaining access to limited and basic sanitation services, Q1.21.....	21
Table 7. Summary of Progress for Key SO3 Indicators Q1,21.....	27
Table 8. Number of communities verified as "open defecation free" (ODF) as a result of USG assistance.....	30
Table 9. MEAL Training Q1.21.....	40
Table 10. Green Line Calls per District Q1.21.....	41

### List of figures

Figure 1 RANO WASH Consortium and resource partners.....	1
Figure 2. RANO WASH Regions.....	2
Figure 3. Q1,21 Targets vs. Achievements for Key Indicators.....	4
Figure 4.Number of people gaining access to basic sanitation services.....	30
Figure 5. The amount made by VSLA members.....	31
Figure 6. Type of investment during VSLA contest.....	32
Figure 7. GreenLine feedback per region Q1.21.....	42

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>APS</b>	Avant-Projet Sommaire (Technical Scoping Study)
<b>APD</b>	Avant-Projet Détaillé (Detailed Project Design)
<b>AO</b>	Agreement Officer
<b>AOPDEM</b>	National Association of Private Water Providers
<b>AOR</b>	Agreement Officer Representative
<b>ASUREP</b>	Association des Usagers des Réseaux d'adduction en Eau Potable
<b>BC</b>	Behavior Change
<b>BCD</b>	Behavior-centered Design
<b>BNGRC</b>	Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et Catastrophes (National Bureau of Disaster Risk Management)
<b>BPOC</b>	Budget Programme par Objectif Communal (Communal Program Budget per Objective)
<b>BPON</b>	Budget Programme par Objectif National (National Program Budget per Objective)
<b>BPOR</b>	Budget Programme par Objectif et Région (Regional Program Budget per Objective)
<b>CARE</b>	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere Inc.
<b>CHV</b>	Community Health Volunteers
<b>CLTS</b>	Community-Led Total Sanitation
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus disease 2019
<b>COP</b>	Chief of Party
<b>CRM</b>	Climate Risk Management
<b>CRS</b>	Catholic Relief Service
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>CTTP</b>	Center for the Triage and the Treatment of the Plague
<b>DCOP</b>	Deputy Chief of Party
<b>DGRE</b>	Direction de la Gestion des Ressources en Eau (Direction of Water Resource Management)
<b>DiMat</b>	District Monitoring Assessment Tool
<b>DMEAL</b>	Director of Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning
<b>DREAH</b>	Direction Régionale de l'Eau, de l'Assainissement et de l'Hygiène
<b>DREN</b>	Direction Régionale de l'Education Nationale
<b>DRSP</b>	Direction Régionale de la Santé Publique
<b>DSI</b>	Direction of the Information System
<b>DQA</b>	Data Quality Assessment
<b>EMMP</b>	Environmental Mitigation & Monitoring Plan
<b>ERF</b>	Environmental Review Form
<b>ERR</b>	Environmental Review Report
<b>ESF</b>	Environmental Screening Form
<b>FAA</b>	Fonds d'Appui pour l'Assainissement (Global Sanitation Fund)
<b>FUM</b>	Follow-up Mandona
<b>FY</b>	Fiscal Year
<b>GoM</b>	Government of Madagascar
<b>GSF</b>	Global Sanitation Fund
<b>IBM</b>	Integrated Behavioral Model

<b>ICT4D</b>	Information and Communication Technology for Development
<b>IP</b>	Implementing Partner
<b>IPTT</b>	Indicator Performance Tracking Table
<b>IWRM</b>	Integrated Water Resource Management
<b>JSR</b>	Joint Sectorial Review
<b>KRFF</b>	Local Committees at Fokontany Level
<b>LDP WASH</b>	Local Development WASH Plan
<b>LP2D</b>	Lettre de Politique pour la Décentralisation et le Développement Local
<b>LSHTM</b>	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
<b>MCSP</b>	Maternal and Child Survival Program
<b>MID</b>	Ministère de l'Intérieur et de la Décentralisation (Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization)
<b>MEAH</b>	Ministère de l'Eau, de l'Assainissement et de l'Hygiène
<b>MEO</b>	Mission Environmental Officer
<b>MFI</b>	Micro-Finance Institution
<b>MHM</b>	Menstrual Hygiene Management
<b>MNP</b>	Madagascar National Parks
<b>MOC</b>	Maîtrise d'Ouvrage Communale (Communal Project Management)
<b>MoEEF</b>	Ministry of Environment, Ecology, and Forest
<b>MoFB</b>	Ministry of Finance and Budget
<b>MoID</b>	Ministry of Interior and Decentralization
<b>MoNE</b>	Ministry of National Education
<b>MoPH</b>	Ministry of Public Health
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MTDN</b>	Minister of Posts, Telecommunications, and Digital Development
<b>NGO</b>	Nongovernmental Organization
<b>NPP-WSH</b>	National Platform for the Promotion of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
<b>ODF</b>	Open Defecation Free
<b>ODDIT</b>	Organisme de Développement de la Diocèse de Toamasina (Toamasina Diocese Development Organization)
<b>ONCD</b>	National Office of Concertation and Decentralization
<b>PCDEAH</b>	Plan de Développement Communal en Eau, Assainissement et Hygiène
<b>PCT</b>	Project Coordination Team
<b>PGDI</b>	Projet de Gouvernance et de Développement Institutionnel (Governance and Institutional Development Project)
<b>PGRM</b>	Projet de Gouvernance des Ressources Minières (Mining Resources Governance Project)
<b>PHE</b>	Population, Health, and Environment
<b>PIC</b>	Projet Pôles Intégrés de Croissance (Integrated Growth Pole Project)
<b>PIRS</b>	Performance Indicator Reference Sheet
<b>PMP</b>	Performance Monitoring Plan
<b>PNI</b>	WASH National Investment Plan
<b>PNP-EAH</b>	Plateforme Nationale de la Promotion de l'Eau, Assainissement et Hygiène (National Platform for the Promotion of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)
<b>PPP</b>	Public-Private Partnership
<b>PPR</b>	Performance Plan Report

<b>PSEAH</b>	Programme Sectoriel en Eau, Assainissement et Hygiène
<b>QI</b>	Quarter one
<b>RANO WASH</b>	Rural Access to New Opportunities in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
<b>RDONE</b>	Regional Director of National Education
<b>RDOPH</b>	Regional Director of Public Health
<b>RDoWEAH</b>	Regional Director of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>RPGEM</b>	Réseau des Promoteurs de Groupes d'Épargne à Madagascar (Savings Groups Promoters Network in Madagascar)
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SE&amp;AM</b>	Suivi Eau et Assainissement de Madagascar (Madagascar Water and Sanitation Monitoring)
<b>SILC</b>	Specialized Investment and Lending Corporation
<b>SLC</b>	Structure Locale de Concertation (Local Dialogue Structure)
<b>SMILER</b>	Simple Monitoring of Indicators for Learning and Evidence-based Reporting
<b>SO</b>	Strategic Objective
<b>SRMO</b>	Structure de mise en œuvre de la coordination Régionale
<b>STEAH</b>	Service Technique de l'Eau, Assainissement et l'Hygiène (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Technical Department)
<b>STEFI</b>	Suivi Technique et Financier (Technical and Financial Monitoring)
<b>STH</b>	Soil-transmitted Helminth Infections
<b>STTA</b>	Short-term Technical Assistance
<b>SWA</b>	Sanitation and Water for All
<b>SWAp</b>	Sector-wide Approach
<b>SWOT</b>	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
<b>TA</b>	Technicien d'Appui
<b>TDY</b>	Temporary Duty
<b>TFP</b>	Technical and Financial Partner
<b>TOR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>ToT</b>	Training of Trainers
<b>USA</b>	United States of America
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>USG</b>	United States Government
<b>VAT</b>	Value Added Tax
<b>VA/PSP</b>	Village Agent/Private Service Provider
<b>VSLA</b>	Village Savings and Loan Association
<b>WALIS</b>	Water for Africa through Leadership Institutional Support
<b>WASH</b>	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>WASH-BAT</b>	WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool
<b>WASH-BC</b>	WASH Behavior Change
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WMA</b>	WASH Market Assessment
<b>WMDP</b>	WASH Market Development Plan
<b>WQAP</b>	Water Quality Assurance Plan
<b>WSP</b>	WASH Service Provider

## I PROJECT OVERVIEW/SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Rural Access to New Opportunities in Water, Sanitation, And Hygiene, Madagascar (RANO WASH)
<b>Activity Start Date and End Date:</b>	June 15, 2017—June 15, 2022
<b>Name of Prime Implementing Partner:</b>	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere Inc (CARE)
<b>Cooperative Agreement Number:</b>	AID-687-A-17-00002
<b>Name of Subawardees</b>	Catholic Relief Services (CRS), WaterAid, BushProof and Sandandrano
<b>Major Counterpart Organizations</b>	Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Ministry of Public Health; Ministry of Interior and Decentralization, Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Environment, Ecology, and Forests; Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research; Ministry of Finance and Budget; Ministry of Population, Social Protection and Woman Promotion; regional and commune governments
<b>Geographic Coverage</b>	<u>250 communes in 6 regions:</u> Alaotra Mangoro, Amoron'i Mania, Atsinanana, Haute Matsiatra Vakinankaratra, and Vatovavy Fitovinany
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	October 1 to December 31, 2020

### I.1 Project Description/Introduction

USAID awarded the five-year Cooperative Agreement AID-687-A-17-00002 for the USAID The Rural Access to New Opportunities in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Project (RANO WASH) to Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere Inc (CARE), on June 15, 2017. CARE manages the RANO WASH consortium with core partners Catholic Relief Services (CRS), WaterAid, BushProof, and Sandandrano and with access to a broad range of resource partners (pictured below).

Figure I RANO WASH Consortium and resource partners



RANO WASH aims to increase equitable and sustainable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services; maximize the impact on human health and nutrition, and preserve the

environment in 250 rural communes in six high-priority regions: Vatovavy Fitovinany, Atsinanana, Alaotra Mangoro, Amoron'i Mania, Haute Matsiatra, and Vakinankaratra. A full list of the communes in the Project regions is presented in Annex 7.

To accomplish this goal, the Project is developing a systematic partnership with national and regional governments, water and sanitation institutions, communities, private sector actors, civil society organizations, and beneficiaries. The aim is to implement a strategic set of mutually supporting activities that contribute to three interlinked strategic objectives:

1. Strengthening the governance and monitoring of water and sanitation
2. Increasing the engagement of the private sector in the delivery of WASH services
3. Accelerating the adoption of healthy behaviors and the use of WASH services

The Project contributes directly to the USAID/Madagascar Health Population and Nutrition's Intermediate Result (IR) 1.1 Sustainable Health Impacts Accelerated and sub Intermediate Results, for which the development objective is "Improved Human Capacity to Contribute to the Country's Journey to Self-Reliance" as part of USAID/Madagascar Country Development Cooperation Strategy 2021-2025.

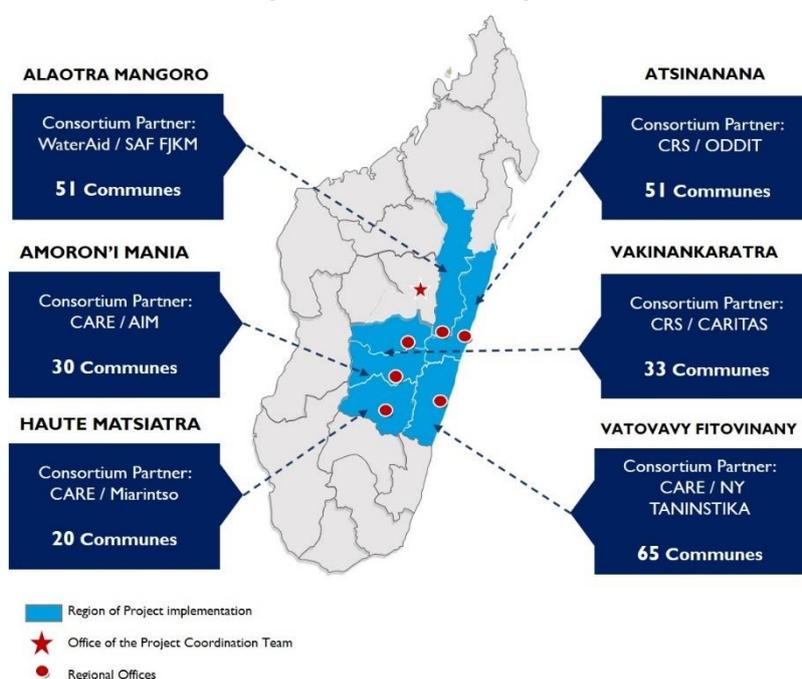
The Project also aligns with USAID Madagascar Water for the World Country Plan through contributions to three out of four program components:

1. Improved WASH Enabling Environment;
2. Public/Private Partnership for at least basic or safely managed service provision of clean water and sanitation;
3. Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Behavior Change.

The Project is also aligned with the Madagascar Government policies and priorities defined in the Initiative for the Emergence of Madagascar (Initiative Emergence Madagascar or IEM) and the General Policy of the State (PGE).

This report covers the period from October to December 2020, which corresponds to the first quarter of the FY2021 fiscal year and the first reporting quarter of the RANO WASH project.

Figure 2. RANO WASH Regions



## 2 ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

### 2.1 Implementation Status

#### Context

Following a period of Covid-19 restrictions, a gradual deconfinement marked the first quarter of FY21. The Project took the opportunity to organize learning events with the regional project teams and catch up on PCT-led training requiring travel at the regional and communal levels. The USAID mission team carried out field visits to the Alaotra Mangoro Region in December 2021.

Two global days, namely Global Handwashing with Soap Day and World Toilet Day, were celebrated in October and November 2020. RANO WASH used these opportunities to strengthen the dissemination of WASH messages in general, but especially the promotion of handwashing with soap, the different handwashing devices available at the regional and communal levels, the use of latrines to stop open defecation, and the services developed by local masons to build or improve latrines.

The rainy season was expected to begin this quarter. However, a delay and lack of rainfall throughout the island have affected the population's lives, especially in rural areas. The low and declining agricultural yields are being felt throughout most of the island, especially in the arid part of southern Madagascar and rice-producing regions such as Alaotra Mangoro. The disruption of the rice-growing season weakens rural households' income, and the government's priority is to address pressing famine and drought needs in the south.

#### OVERALL INDICATOR PROGRESS

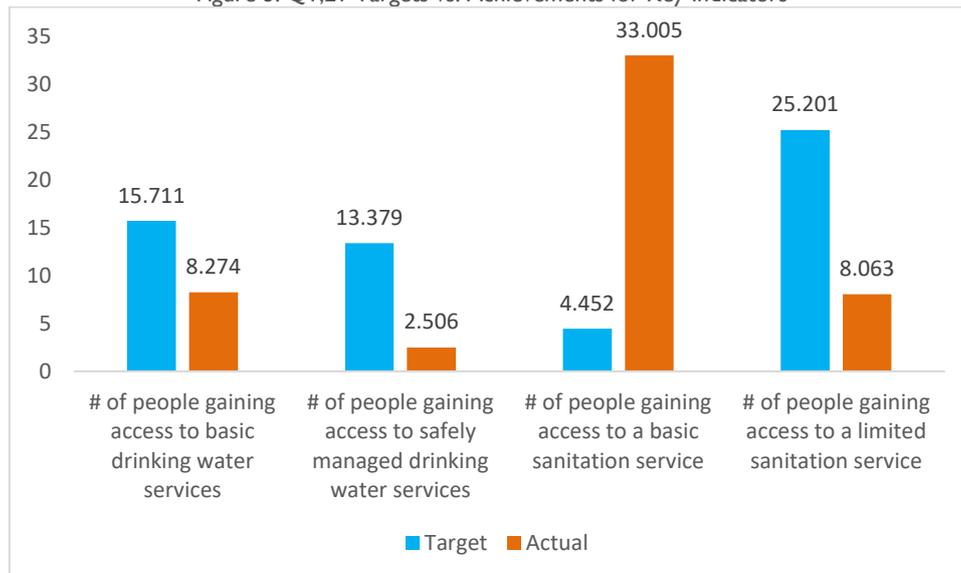
The table below summarizes the evolution of the indicators for Q1.

Table 1. Summary progress toward key indicators Q1.21 Update<sup>1</sup>

Key Indicators	Q1		FY21	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
# of people gaining access to basic drinking water services	15,711	8,274	81,522	8,274
# of people gaining access to safely managed drinking water services	13,379	2,506	41,733	2,506
# of people gaining access to a basic sanitation service	4,452	33,005	23,000	33,005
# of people gaining access to a limited sanitation service	25,201	8,063	112,289	8,063
# of institutional settings gaining access to basic drinking water services as a result of USG assistance	9	1	81	1
# of communities verified as "open defecation free" (ODF) as a result of USG assistance	183	156	887	156

<sup>1</sup> Definitions of the WASH services ladders according to the Joint Monitoring Programme for water supply, sanitation and hygiene (JMP): [WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene \(JMP\) | UN Water and redesign\\_chart\\_JMP\\_JUL2017\\_3-02-e1501763782601.png \(627x1357\) \(unwater.org\)](https://www.unwater.org/publications/who-unicef-joint-monitoring-programme-for-water-supply-sanitation-and-hygiene-jmp/)  
See also Annex 20. Sanitation Ladder (JMP)

Figure 3. Q1,21 Targets vs. Achievements for Key Indicators

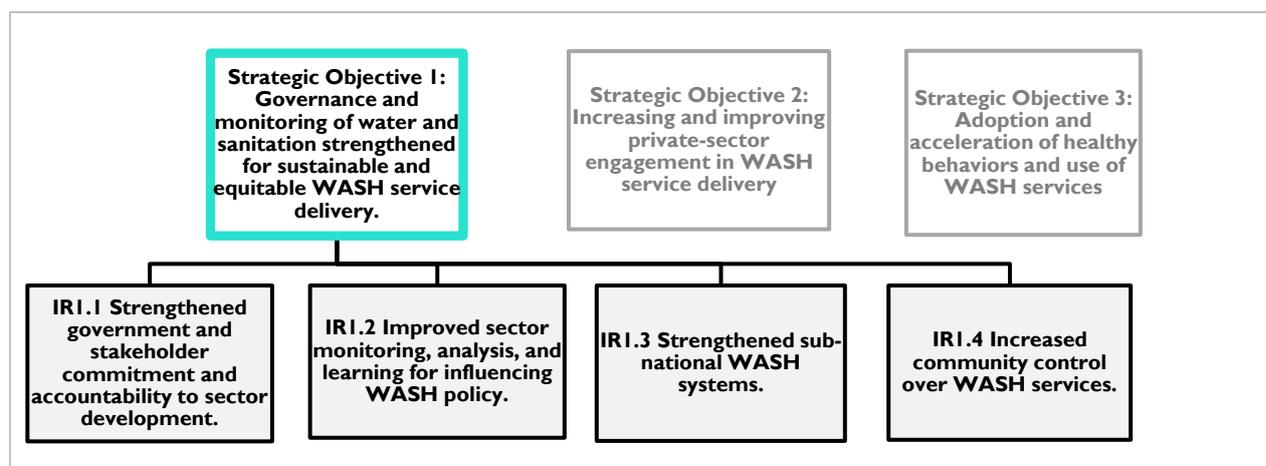


**Achievements in terms of access to water services continue to be the main challenge of the project.** This can be explained by several reasons, among others the time needed for private operators to generate and install the demands, the delay in the start of new construction works, the delay in the implementation of the rehabilitation of non-functional water points with private management. The project continues to support private operators to develop a coverage plan and adopt a more aggressive marketing strategy.

**The results obtained in terms of access to sanitation services have further confirmed that households prefer private latrines,** which explains the more convincing results for basic services as opposed to limited services. (See Annex 20 Sanitation Ladder (JMP))

**The capitalization of good practices, challenges and lessons learned related to access to water and sanitation services is a priority for RANO WASH** for the coming quarters to facilitate scaling up to other intervention communes and to disseminate to other actors in the WASH sector.

## Strategic Objective 1: Governance and Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Strengthened for Sustainable and Equitable WASH Service Delivery.



### Key Achievements

- Five of the six RANO WASH intervention regions completed their annual coordination cycle with a regional sector review conducted in December 2020;
- 162 municipalities continue to update the SE&AM;
- The project identified 47 communes with water systems that can be managed by the private sector to improve the quality of services
- 93 people, including 70 RANO WASH agents received training on the Community Score Card approach to improve quality of accountability mechanism at the local level

Table 2. Summary of progress towards key SOI indicators Q2.20 Update

Key Indicator	Q1 Target	Q1 Actual	FY21 Target	FY21 Actual
<b>Progress on the pathways to set-up regional coordination*</b>	Phase 6 Year 20	Phase 6 Year20	Phase 5 Year 21	Phase 6 Year 20
<b>% common reporting in SE&amp;AM</b> (out of 250 Communes)	68%	65%	80%	65% (162/250 municipalities)
<b>Progress of Capacity of DREAH to train and coach communes</b>	Not applicable for Q1	Not applicable for Q1	6 DREAH conducted training of STEAH in their region (Step I and II)	Not applicable for Q1
<b># of intervention communes engaging with the private sector to provide WASH services</b>	50 Target commune identified	47 target commune Identified	99 municipalities engaging with the private sector	47 target commune Identified
<b># Commune with trained STEAH</b>	220	220	245	220

Key Indicator	Q1 Target	Q1 Actual	FY21 Target	FY21 Actual
# communes with OSC-EAH operational	130	134	150	134 operational

\*See Figure 2. Phases to set up a regional coordination mechanism

## IRI.1 Strengthened Government and Stakeholder Commitment and Accountability to Sector Development.

### Output I.1.1 Sector coordination and learning mechanisms operating effectively under strong national leadership

Five of the six<sup>2</sup> RANO WASH intervention regions were able to close the annual coordination cycle at the regional level with the regional sector review's implementation, meeting our Q1 target to be on phase 6 of our "pathways to set up a regional coordination."

These regional sector reviews and their preparations<sup>3</sup> marked the revival of regular sector coordination meetings following the COVID-19 crisis. The Vakinakaratra region was able to implement five coordination meetings (including three thematic meetings). The Atsinanana and Vatovavy Fitovinany regions were able to implement two coordination meetings. The Alaotra Mangoro, Haute Matsiatra, and Amoron'i Mania regions implemented one coordination meeting. As a reminder, the SRMOs of our six regions have a frequency of two meetings per quarter in general.

RANO WASH has : (1) shared with regional directorates the key considerations/actions for the preparation, implementation, and reporting for the "sector reviews" according to a study implemented at the global level in 2016<sup>4</sup>, (2) provided technical support to the DREAH for the preparation and implementation of these reviews, (3) supported the regional management for logistics, and preparation of the review, (4) pleaded with DREAH the importance of maintaining the regularity of coordination meetings despite the emergencies of each during this period of resumption of activities.

<sup>2</sup> Atsinanana, Alaotra Mangoro, Vakinakaratra, Amoron'i Mania, Vatovavy were able to implement their sector reviews. Haute Matsiatra programmed it for January to have more time for preparation.

<sup>3</sup> See Annex 10. List of Regional Coordination Meetings held in Q1.21

<sup>4</sup> Effective Joint Sector Reviews for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), A Study and Guidance—2016, World Bank, WSP

### **Box I Highlights of the SRMO in Q1 FY21**

(SRMO: Regional Coordination Implementation Structure)

Despite the decrease in the number of regional coordination meetings, this quarter marks the resumption of meetings after the COVID-19 crisis. Finding time to allow for broad participation was one of the challenges since each stakeholder took advantage of the resumption of activities to accelerate their respective interventions.

The DREAH team provides leadership for these coordination meetings. The meeting frequency has made it possible to popularize the regional sectoral objectives and guide stakeholders in aligning their interventions with these regional objectives.

More and more of the costs of regional coordination meetings are being shared across partners. There is a tendency to seek to minimize expenses to ensure meetings continue regularly. The majority of actors are also beginning to participate in the preparation and facilitation for these meetings.

SRMO coordination meetings have become a platform for discussion on (1) the preparation of key joint events of sector actors at the regional level (e.g., world days and reforestation campaign); (2) discussion on ministerial directives, framework documents, and regional priorities (e.g., Madagascar Madio, Water Code, performance contract, and the water crisis in Fianaratsoa and Antsirabe); (3) challenges and initiatives at the regional level (e.g., overlapping interventions and approaches for ODF communes); (4) monitoring each actor's efforts against regional sector objectives. For RANO WASH, the SRMO coordination meeting has become a space for sharing progress, approaches with other sector actors, and mobilizing other actors to collaborate for greater impact at the regional level, including the Grow-up sticker behavior change strategy, Madio joint competitions for sanitation, and VSLA approach. While last year's regional sector reviews focused on compiling stakeholder achievements, this year, the review began with compiling data and comparing achievements with 2021 objectives.

The review then analyzed the success factors and challenges encountered to provide directives for 2021.

### **Output I.1.2 Institutional capacity of the Ministry in charge of WASH developed to meet strategic needs**

After the validation of the national WASH policy document (which was developed by HP+ funded consultant) by the MEAH team and WASH stakeholders, the Government Council and Minister's Council analyzed the document. In November, the MEAH received several recommendations to improve the document. The policy will also become a bill and will be submitted to Parliament's meeting in May. The Ministry is currently drafting terms of reference for a legal expert to review and address the government's remarks will transform the document into a bill. As a result, our plans to popularize the policy documents and support the strategy development have been put on hold. These documents are policy-based, and passage through Parliament can bring about substantial change<sup>5</sup>.

During this quarter, national-level efforts focused on the Ministry's leadership and support to launch the TrackFin process funded by UNICEF and WHO. RANO WASH is an active member of the core committee responsible for preparing the events related to the process and discussing its implementation strategy. Our advocacy objectives for this process are (1) to highlight the contribution of the private sector to the WASH sector, (2) to disaggregate data to facilitate regional analysis, (3) to integrate indicators on hygiene and WASH at the institutional level into the TrackFin study. RANO WASH advocated for these three points to be incorporated into the study during the scoping meeting in December. The process will be finalized in 6 months since December, and UNICEF is recruiting the consultant to facilitate the process's conduct. The data on WASH financing from the TrackFin process will improve the quality of data available to the sector. RANO WASH will use the TrackFin process to (1)

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<sup>5</sup> See details in " Annex 11. Note on the scoping meeting of the TrackFin 2016-2019 process

strengthen its activities to develop an enabling environment for the private sector and (2) improve the sector's financial planning system.

Finally, as shared in the COVID-19 activity reports, this quarter allowed RANO WASH to officially hand over communication materials for the MEAH meeting room and the six regional directorates to organize, attend online meetings, and facilitate data collection. The Minister committed to using these materials following the terms of the agreements. The MEAH handles part of the delivery of these materials to the regions. The Ministry is currently systematizing a link for online participation at meetings<sup>6</sup> and is organizing these meetings autonomously.

### **Activities planned for the next quarter**

- Support the DREAH to set-up regional joint planning for 2021 to achieve objectives in the performance contract ;
- Supporting networking and private sector participation in the SRMO ;
- Prepare activities for the development of the national WASH National Strategy ;
- Mobilize consultants for the mapping of private actors in WASH ;

## **IRI.2 Improved Sector Monitoring, Analysis, and Learning, Influencing Policy**

### **Output 1.2.1 SE&AM strengthened and extended**

Our vision for 2022 is to have an operational cycle of planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation that allows for a systematic assessment of sector performance and a mechanism to document lessons learned. The following are some of our successes against FY21 objectives that contribute to this vision.

At the municipal level, 151 of 250 municipalities transferred physical versions of WASH data to the DREAHs. 99 of 250 of the communes had to revise their updated data sheets after the data verification process of the DREAHs. These figures are lower than last year's results (170 of 250 communes in FY20) due to a series of changes implemented by the regional directorates to facilitate information processing at their level. As a result, the DREAHs, with the financial support of RANO WASH, conducted refresher training sessions with communes in December to improve data quality and reliability.

At the regional level, the DREAH used SE&AM data to elaborate summaries for annual achievements as part of the prep work for the regional sector reviews in the six intervention regions helping meet the Project's<sup>7</sup> regional review objective for this quarter. Although the SE&AM's online data was incomplete<sup>8</sup>, the DREAH's data were used (figures and information provided by the communes and partners). Nevertheless, in some regions, the difficulty of

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<sup>6</sup> As an illustration, the TrackFin meeting in Antsirabe saw the participation of actors from outside Madagascar to share their experiences and advise on the choices to be made by Madagascar. Similarly, several actors from 22 regions of Madagascar were able to participate online during the workshop.

<sup>7</sup> The implementation of these reviews for our regions of intervention is a means of advocacy for us with the Central Ministry to do so at the level of the 22 regions and at the national level. The implementation of the review has not been prioritized by the Ministry in recent years.

<sup>8</sup> In November, due to a mishandling and short circuit at the MEAH National office, SE&AM data was lost with the periodic backups. Only data from the end of 2018 could be recovered and put online. The Ministry is in the process of recovering all the backup data and only a few data on 2 or 3 regions are not yet up to date. Normally, this correction will be finalized at the end of January.

collecting information from TFPs was noted due to the prioritization of accelerating their respective activities before the end of the year and after the COVID crisis.

The materials handed over to the Ministry and the DREAHs (Output 1.1.1) will help the DREAHs monitor data from the communal STEAHs through the mWater platform. The mastery of this platform by the DREAH teams will facilitate the integration and synchronization of data in the SE&AM.

At the national level, the MEAH considers the upgrade of the SE&AM as a priority action but has not yet decided on the way forward despite the plan proposed by the previous administration and the recruitment of a new Director of Information System and Monitoring and Evaluation (DSISE)<sup>9</sup>. To support the MEAH, WaterAid International and RANO WASH organized virtual exchange sessions with other countries. A virtual<sup>10</sup> sharing session with the Ministry of Infrastructure of Rwanda was organized on December 11, 2020, to compare the two countries' WASH monitoring and information systems and help Madagascar identify possible improvements to be made. Several points<sup>11</sup> were identified, but further exchanges may be useful to reinforce ideas. UNICEF is among the participants who proposed to organize an exchange with Mozambique while waiting for<sup>12</sup> other countries contacted by WaterAid International.

### **Output 1.2.2 Implementation of the learning agenda to increase and better regulate private-sector engagement in WASH**

The regional sector reviews were used to strengthen exchanges and learning from the initiatives implemented in 2020. These regional sector reviews reinforced the MEAH's priority in developing PPPs and initiated discussions among stakeholders, the private sector, and sector actors on private sector participation and PPP implementation challenges. Private sector representatives have been active during these reviews, although a better mobilization would have been desirable to have more private sector participants. The resumption of meetings between private companies is not yet effective after the COVID-19 crisis.

The Vatovavy Fitovinany region has organized exchange and learning meetings for the private sector in WASH, including the following:

- (1) The billing tools shared for private connection and social household connections allow Water service managers to monitor consumption and, in turn, inform their

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<sup>9</sup> Update as of March 2021. RANO WASH Recently is currently working with the MEAH to update the action plan to revise the WASH sector Monitoring, and Evaluation plan, including the SE&AM platform upgrade and proposed a workplan workplan which consists of the following:

- evaluation workshop of the current system ;
- Development of a national sectoral M&E plan;
- Development/update of the SE&AM platform based on the new M&E plan;
- training of MEAH staff at the national and field level ; and
- deployment of the web application.

Following discussion with the MEAH and with the endorsement of the Minister of EAH, DHIS2 will be used for the pilot phases to visualize, collect and transmit data. This process will take about 6 month, an indicative timeline is provided in Annex 14

<sup>10</sup> Meeting Participants: MEAH Madagascar (DSISE team and representative of different services within the MEAH), RANO WASH, Ministry of Infrastructure Rwanda, WaterAid Rwanda, WaterAid International, UNICEF Madagascar,

<sup>11</sup> See details in " Annex 13. WASH Sector Monitoring Systems Comparative Analysis

<sup>12</sup> A few countries have been contacted by WaterAid International such as Tanzania but due to the priorities in terms of information management related to COVID at the level of these countries and the vacation period, we have not yet received a calendar for the exchanges;

mid-year financial reports. As a result of the exchange, service managers of Vatovavy Fitovinany will now use a harmonized framework for the mid-year report.

- (2) A network of local masons has also been created in the Vatovavy Fitovinany region to facilitate information exchange between districts and the supply/sale of SanPlat slabs. For example, a local mason from Lokomby in the Vatovavy Fitovinany region supplied a SanPlat slab for a neighboring municipality.

The upload and update of materials into the digital library have slowed down after the Project's coaching to upload available documents from the DREAH offices in FY20. The priority for the coming months is to integrate documents and reports from the regional sector reviews. But this slowdown still raises the question of the Digital Library team's proactivity in searching for new documents to be integrated into the library even without mobilization by RANO WASH.

### **Activities planned for the next quarter**

- Provide technical support to the MEAH in conducting the SE&AM upgrade;
- Accompany STEAH to update and ensure the reliability of data at the commune level;
- Train new pilot communes in mWater (WASH data collection on a smartphone).
- Facilitate the exchanges of the private sector group at the regional level ;
- Continue to coach the DREAHs and the MEAH to populate the digital library with materials from regional events and learning materials for PPP ;
- Organize learning workshops at the national level with private operators.

## **IRI.3 Strengthened Subnational Systems**

### **Output 1.3.1 Decentralized resources available for sustained WASH service delivery**

The regional sectoral reviews from this quarter and stakeholders' commitment to collaboration are essential for improving regional planning quality. One of the outcomes from the review discussions identified the need to maintain regional efforts to link planning, monitoring, and budgeting and have a real reflection on the significant gaps between the funding available at the regional level and the high objectives defined at the national level, particularly for access to water. RANO WASH is conducting advocacy at the national level for the national sector review and to continue the discussion at the national level.

The DREAH's support and coaching of the STEAHs trained in FY20 continued to increase these communal structures' performance. Follow-ups took place according to the action plans formulated to provide effective supervision and support. The DREAH of the Atsinanana region gave working tools to the STEAHs to monitor WASH services managed by the private sector. The STEAH also received equipment, including wrenches, pliers, and screwdrivers, to facilitate preventative maintenance.

### **Output 1.3.2 Communes' management capacities strengthened for WASH service delivery**

In FY21, RANO WASH will continue working with communes to 1) incrementally increase the WASH budget line within the larger commune-level in 50 communes, 2) set up management contracts with private water operators in 99 communes, 3) improve the quality of technical and financial support services provided by the STEAH at communes level STEAH,

4) improve monitoring systems and data updates for the SE&AM and 4) define priorities and road map to improve accountability and regulation of WASH services in each commune.

During this quarter, the communes prepared their initial budget for 2021. Information on these budgets is not yet available, as most are awaiting review from the district teams. We expect these data will be available in Q2. In Q1, the local WASH-related structures and actors, such as WASH-CSO's, SLC, and STEAH, were mobilized to influence the communes to implement and increase the WASH commune budget. A total of 100 of 250 communes have validated their commune WASH development plans (PCDEAH) this quarter, and 19 PCDEAHs have been drafted and are awaiting validation of the SLCs. Our objective at the end of 2021 is to have 200 validated PCDEAHs at the commune level. This PCDEAH allows the commune to improve the accuracy of the budgeting process for the commune.

#### **Box 2. Note on validated PCDEAHs**

The majority of the investments planned in the PCDEAHs concern the construction and rehabilitation of drinking water supply systems, which far exceed the communes' financial capacities. The construction of latrines at the institutional level and the establishment of household waste collection systems are among the priority actions to which the communes have already committed to financing from their available resources.

Discussions are underway with the DREAHs to support the communes in "selling" their PCDEAHs through periodic meetings at the level of the SRMO to the various regional state structures, NGOs, and TFPs working in the region. In Q2, the Amoron'i Mania region plans to bring together the communes with a PCDEAH to present their priorities and funding needs to private operators and NGOs working in the region.

To strengthen the communes' collaboration with private operators, 64 systems with operating challenges have been identified. Advocacy actions are underway with the communes to mobilize the private sectors to rehabilitate, manage and extend these services.

#### **Activities planned for the next quarter**

- Monitor the appropriate use of centrally and regionally provided materials to ensure that the objectives set are met
- Plan joint field visits with DREAHs to coach and conduct refresher training activities for the STEAHs
- Finalize the validation process for the PCDEAHs;
- Continue the Life Cycle Cost<sup>13</sup> process in the six pilot communes: Belavabary of Alaotra Mangoro, Andemaka of Vatovavy Fitovinany, Antsoatany for Vakinankaratra, Ranomafana is for Atsinanana and Ambatomarina of Haute Matsiatra;
- Support communes to prepare the sharing of the PCDEAH with potential partners and donors to mobilize funds.

### **IRI.4 Increased community control over WASH services**

#### **Output 1.4.1 Communes and communities with an active civil society, aware of and organized to claim their right to water and sanitation**

By 2022, the Project's goal is to empower communities to demand quality WASH services and actively participate in dialogue with authorities to improve WASH services. CSOs will

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<sup>13</sup> Life Cycle Cost process : which consists of making an inventory of all the infrastructures and monitoring the various costs to ensure the sustainability of the services. The aim is to improve future expenditure planning to ensure the sustainability of services.

play an important role in (1) empowering the community to demand and respect WASH rights and (2) engaging the municipality and WASH service providers to respond to community demands for quality services.

We currently have 134 communal WASH-CSO operational, lower than our result in the previous year. This lower number demonstrates the Project's challenge to keep the communal WASH-CSO active and the ongoing need for program activities to revitalize them. On the other hand, 215 out of 250 communes have officially established their WASH-CSO. For the remaining 35 communes, the WASH-CSO member organizations are known, but the WASH-CSO's formalization requires the Regional Executive Office (BER) approval. The Project is currently finalizing an agreement with each BER to facilitate communal WASH-CSOs, especially in remote and landlocked communes.

During this quarter, the 134 operational WASH-CSOs mostly advocated for an increase in the municipal WASH budget. This quarter, the WASH-CSOs, through its representation in the SLC, advocates for issues that included the rehabilitation of water points or the construction of public latrines or hygiene behavior change activities. Investments in drinking water are generally costly, so the communes' responses are directed towards constructing institutional latrines, installing garbage bins in public places (market, bush cab parking), and awareness-raising on the construction of latrines per household.

#### **Output I.4.2 Communes with functional WASH accountability mechanisms**

Since the previous quarter, of the 157 municipalities with operational accountability mechanisms, this year's effort is to strengthen the quality and maintenance of these mechanisms<sup>14</sup>. A total of 93 RANO WASH agents have been reached through a cascade training implemented for the implementation of Community Score Cards<sup>15</sup> (CSC). The CSC is one of the mechanisms least practiced last year but has a strong results advantage on the quality of services and collaboration for WASH. A total of 45 CSC service assessments and action plans were conducted and developed this quarter, including water management services and services provided by local masons. The action plans will be implemented in cycles of 3 to 6 months, depending on each commune. One of the results obtained during this quarter following feedback from the community was the rehabilitation of 6<sup>16</sup> non-functional water points targeting 600 beneficiaries in the Vatovavy Fitovinany region.

The local consultation structures (SLCs) are spaces for exchange between the commune's dynamic actors, including communities, service providers, and authorities. 160 SLCs are operational this quarter. The discussion points/topics for WASH within these structures include a budget proposal for the commune's WASH needs as part of the preparation of the initial 2021 budget, validation of the PCDEAH, consideration of the necessary budgets for water resource protection activities, how to make the commune ODF and identification of means to facilitate household access to latrines. This figure is down from the 173 SLC identified as operational during FY20 and reflects the need to reinvigorate these structures, especially after the meeting restrictions during the COVID-19 period.

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<sup>14</sup> Accountability mechanism promoted through the project: community meetings, suggestion box, and Community Score Card, Green line;

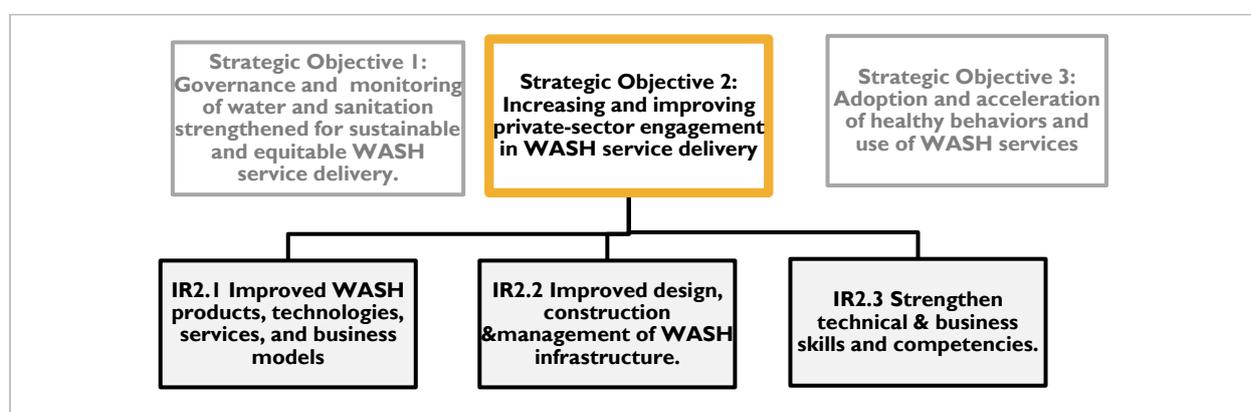
<sup>15</sup> The Community Score Card is a community based monitoring and evaluation tool that enables all stakeholders to assess the quality of public services. We use it to help dialogue between WSPs, authority and community. Both WASH services providers and Community set up a joint plan to solve challenge

<sup>16</sup> 4 water points in the capital of Ankarimbelo commune, 2 water points in the Fokontany Andranovolo of Vohitryndy commune.

## Activities planned for the next quarter

- Continue to strengthen the WASH-CSO in their advocacy and human rights outreach activities in WASH;
- Support the regional WASH-CSO executive office (BERs) for the support and accompaniment of the communal WASH-CSOs;
- Training/retraining, training follow-up for partners and municipalities in CSC
- Institutionalization of CSC at the communal level;
- Strengthening the practice of accountability mechanisms at the commune level and mobilizing the authorities to be responsive to community feedback;
- Coaching SLCs to improve their performance.

### 2.1.1 Strategic Objective 2: Increasing Private-Sector Engagement in Delivering WASH Services



### Key Achievements

- **8,378** out of **15,711** people targeted gained access to basic drinking water services, and **3,512** out of **13,379** people targeted gained access to safely managed drinking water services;
- **33,005** out of **4,452** people targeted gained access to basic sanitation, and **8,063** to a limited sanitation service out of **25,201** targeted;
- **7 APS** out of 7 and **15 APDs** out of 15 have been completed ;
- Finalization of two exploratory drillings (leftover of Q4.20) in Marofarihy and Vohitrindry (Vatovavy Fitovinany);
- **Six ESF** reviewed, and **two** approved of the nine submitted in FY20;
- **171 local masons** sold 866 sanitary products, and **225 local seamstresses** sold 10,222 hygiene products;
- **Seven companies were selected following calls for tenders** for the Build Finance Operate Public-Private Partnership model and tendering process of water supply systems;
- **More than 100 persons from the administration** (mayors, councilors, STEAH, regional director of EAH) have received capacity building on the Roles, Responsibilities, and Contractual Obligations for the Build Finance Operate Public-Private Partnership model.

Table 3. Summary progress toward key SO2 indicators Q1.21 Update

Key Indicators	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		FY21	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
# of WSP/ artisans/vendors issued loan products for investment in WASH systems	8	0	9	0	8	0	2	0	27	0
# of people gaining access to basic drinking water services	15,711	8,378	21,066	0	16,500	0	28,245	0	81,522	8,378
# of people gaining access to safely managed drinking water services	13,379	3,512	12,087	0	9,354	0	6,913	0	41,733	3,512
# of people gaining access to a basic sanitation service	4,452	33,005	5,677	0	7,141	0	5,730	0	23,000	33,005
# of people gaining access to a limited sanitation service	25,201	8,063	27,658	0	32,918	0	26,512	0	112,289	8,063
# of infrastructure feasibility studies (APD and APDS reports) completed	15	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	4

## IR2.1 Strategic Development and Innovation for Private-Sector Engagement in WASH Service Provision

### Output 2.1.2 Regional WASH market development plans drafted

This quarter, the Project facilitated the regional-level feedback meeting and discussion of the data from the Haute Matsiatra WASH market assessment. This meeting was conducted with all potential stakeholders to understand better market opportunities and the private sector's added value in providing inclusive and sustainable services. The next step will be to conduct a

workshop in February 2021 to identify and evaluate potential WASH services and products, business models, and actors to strengthen WASH value chains.

The Project also initiated the drafting process for the WASH market development plans (WMDPs) in Vatovavy Fitovinany, Atsinanana, Alaotra Mangoro, Vakinankaratra, and Amoron'i Mania. These plans will be finalized and disseminated in Q2.

### **Output 2.1.3 Increased availability and accessibility of types and range of financial products for WASH services and products**

WSPs are still new to financing, and their relationship with financial institutions remains primarily at the level of account management and not as a partner for business development. Apart from the 6 WSPs responding to the FY19 calls for tenders, no more loans/credit has been awarded.

As a result of RANO WASH's advocacy with primary banks, BNI provided six WSPs with training on financial education and relations with banks in the Atsinanana region. The Project also provided training on marketing and business management so that companies can develop their creditworthy products to present to financial institutions.

### **Activities planned for the next quarter**

- Finalization of the WMDP development process for Haute Matsiatra;
- Elaboration and dissemination of regional presentations on WASH market segmentation;
- Follow-up on contracting between private operators and financial institutions.

## **IR 2.2 Improved Design, Construction, and Management of WASH Infrastructure**

### **Output 2.2.1—Improved Design and Construction of Sustainable WASH Infrastructure**

#### **Technical Feasibility Studies (APSs) and Detailed Designs of Construction Projects (APDs)**

The following table summarizes the achievements on APS and APD studies for FY21 Q1.

Table 4.APS and APD Studies Q1.21 Update

Region	APS		APD		R. Drilling (*)		Explanation of variances
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	
Atsinanana	1	0	2	0	0	0	The planned APDs are intended for small systems that require site consolidation to be cost-effective. Discussions with DREAH and municipalities on site selection and consolidation took longer than expected. The Tsivangiana APS was canceled by the DREAH because the localities are too scattered that implementing a stand-alone water system would be too expensive and not profitable.
Alaotra Mangoro	0	0	0	3	0	0	The Alaotra Mangoro region resumed APDs to ensure the completion of construction work during this fiscal year.
Amoron'i Mania	0	0	3	2	0	0	As the population density per square kilometer is relatively low in the Amoron'i Mania region, the analysis of the 15 APSs to confirm the next potential APD sites for PPP development was relatively difficult and took longer than expected. It has been difficult to define groups of localities that can be served by a single system without significantly increasing the cost of the required investments.
Haute Matsiatra	0	0	2	2	0	0	
Vakinankaratra	0	0	2	2	0	0	
Vatovavy Fitovinany	6	7	6	6	2	2	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	

(\*) Reconnaissance drillings are required as a follow-up to APDs proposing to use groundwater resources and complement geophysical prospecting already included in the APDs.

Regarding the planning over the Project's life, in line with the Project's strategy for improving access to drinking water, the approved PMP for FY21 foresees a cumulative total of 127 APS and 91 APD. Compared to this overall target, we currently have 113 APS and 65 APD, representing 88% of the targets for APS and 71% of the targets for APD, respectively. As mentioned in the table above and in the Project's annual work plan, these study objectives should be achieved by Q3.21.

## **ESF, WQAP, and CRM Monitoring and Implementation**

In Q1, we developed several frameworks and documentation to improve the implementation of environmental compliance measures. Most of them have been shared in the revised ESFs submitted to USAID and in the attached EMMR. The topics covered by these documents are hybrid dams and artificial lakes, land expropriation procedures, application of health and safety policies on construction sites, and feedback on electro chlorination kits.

Of the nine ESFs planned for Q1, RANO WASH has worked on six, two of which are already approved by USAID. The remaining three ESF are under development at the respective regional level.

The validation of water quality assurance depends on the tests performed with the IPM. This dependence has negatively affected in situ monitoring. Despite improvements in the efficiency of the IPM in the intervention regions, Vatovavy Fitovinany still faces challenges in securing visits from the IPM. As a result, the water quality analyses for Vatovavy Fitovinany are still limited to the results of testing conducted by the RANO WASH using portable test kits. Still, the regional team will continue to work with the IPM to negotiate a suitable schedule to perform the pending tests.

The Project improved its tools for monitoring the measures in the ESFs in Q1 based on lessons learned, including Environmental compliance, climate risk management, use of the Delagua water test kit, and improving follow-ups and documentation of achievements. These will be disseminated in Q2 during an environmental compliance training RANO WASH plans to organize.

## **Update on Construction Works and access to water services**

The first quarter focused on the pre-construction activities, including administrative steps (e.g., contracting and compliance audit) and environmental (e.g., ESF) procedures for the following worksites:

- Morarano Chrome, in Alaotra Mangoro region
- Soanindrariny, Ambohitsimanova, Antsoatany, in Vakinankaratra region
- Ambatomarina et Ivato Centre (on going ESF), in Amoron'i Mania region
- Androy et Andrainjato Est, in Haute Matsiatra region

For the works in progress, the most pressing to finalize is the Lokomby system in Vatovavy Fitovinany. The provisional acceptance was initially planned for October 2020 but was postponed until March 2021. These delays are mainly due to the interruption in the supply of pumping equipment due to a maritime transit problem that lasted more than three months. RANO WASH followed up with the suppliers in collaboration with the project manager and has developed a step by step follow-up of the progress once the equipment is received.

In addition to the construction of water infrastructure to increase access to water services, RANO WASH provided the following support at the communal level during this quarter:

- Support to the communes for the rehabilitation of 8 non-functional boreholes
- Provide material and financial support to extend the secondary water pipeline network to reduce the cost of water connections to be paid by households.

These commune-level activities began in Q1, and some results have been observed in the Vatovavy Fitovinany<sup>17</sup> and Alaotra Mangoro<sup>18</sup> regions. The purchase of pipes for the secondary pipes close to villages is in progress, and results are expected in the next quarters. The water services managers will take charge of the installation of the pipes.

The main achievements in terms of access to water are illustrated in the table below.

Table 5. Number of people gaining access to basic and safely managed drinking water services Q1,21

	Q1		FY21		Variances explanation
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	
<b>Access to basic drinking water services</b>					
Alaotra Mangoro	3,300	194	20,057	194	The impact of health restrictions was felt in Q1. Even if the measures were less restrictive, households are rather reluctant to invest in anything other than agricultural work (preparation and plowing of fields while waiting for the rains, transplanting, etc.).  Inflation has also impacted the number of beneficiaries (rice has increased from 1,800 Ar to 3,000 Ar per kg). Also, the payment of connections remains secondary in the first quarter.  There have also been technical concerns in some systems, which have impacted water services provision and the finalization of planned connections.
Atsinanana	8,000	2,068	16,842	2,068	
Vatovavy Fitovinany	2,170	6,116	20,444	6,116	
Vakinankaratra	0	0	12,630	0	N/A
Amoron'i Mania	0	0	15,400	0	N/A
Haute Matsiatra	2,241	0	16,242	0	The pre-construction phase took longer than expected due to confirmation and additional data collection to ensure the investment's security. This delayed the start of construction and the installation of water connections.
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,711</b>	<b>8,378</b>	<b>101,615</b>	<b>8,378</b>	
<b>Access to safely managed drinking water services</b>					

<sup>17</sup> In Vatovavy Fitovinany, following Community Score Card exercises, 8 communes mobilized their own resources to rehabilitate eight non-functional water points.

<sup>18</sup> In Alaotra Mangoro, the Mayor, following the training received, has committed to rehabilitating the water systems in three fokontany not covered by the system built by RANO WASH.

	Q1		FY21		Variances explanation
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	
Alaotra Mangoro	2,250	1,264	10,393	1,264	As mentioned above, households are reluctant to pay for water connections after the COVID-19 crisis and increase rice costs. Also, for two water systems, service managers have had to solve technical problems that delay the installation of water connections.
Atsinanana	5,000	713	8,758	713	
Vatovavy Fitovinany	5,000	1,535	11,300	1,535	
Vakinankaratra	0	0	5,252	0	N/A
Amoron'i Mania	0	0	5,654	0	N/A
Haute Matsiatra	1,129	0	6,154	0	The pre-construction phase took longer than expected due to confirmation and additional data collection to ensure the investment's security. This delayed the start of construction and the installation of water connections.
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,379</b>	<b>3,512</b>	<b>47,511</b>	<b>3,512</b>	

For Q1, achievements in terms of basic access to drinking water represent 53% of the quarter's targets and 16% for access to safely managed water services. COVID-19 economic effect has had a great impact on the water's achievement objectives. Due to various restrictions, new construction was delayed. There were also impacts at the household level, in which their investments slowed to focus on meeting agricultural inputs, field plowing, and other basic needs. In some areas, the population preferred to invest in income-generating agricultural activities rather than in WASH investments.

Coverage of water services remains a significant challenge and priority for RANO WASH. The main challenges to the uptake of water services consist in operationalizing business plans for each water system:

While Water Service Providers are required to submit a business plan as part of the project PPP build – invest – O& M – model, these are not consistently followed or translated as annual/monthly coverage/sales plan for new water users.

#### Capacity of WSPs:

WSPs mostly have experience in time-limited construction activities and lack capacity in operational management, marketing, finance, etc., required for the long-term management and expansion of water systems as part of a 20-delegation contract.

RW is addressing through ongoing coaching, training, monitoring, and linkages with commercial banks, also in revising the selection criteria of future WSPs by promoting the regrouping of businesses and complementarity of businesses ( e.g., construction + marketing)

We also support managers in the planning and operationalizing of their development plan by offering them management support to revise/establish clear coverage plans and adopt more aggressive marketing strategies to ensure greater coverage. RW is currently developing a management tool (adapted from the Eaurizon project, Grand Lyon in Haute Matsiatra) which will be presented and discussed mi-March with the WSPs and AOPDEM.

In addition to the planned water system construction works. The project is still connecting private water operators with banks to extend services to the villages and fokontany not yet planned to be covered by the initial water system.

Also, at the communal level, the project supports Communes in rehabilitating non-functional water infrastructures and setting up a private management system that ensures greater, professional, and sustainable coverage. Following the Commune's planning and budgeting done to increase water services access, the project supports the Communes to mobilize other resources for greater water service coverage.

### **Legal framework and PPP Contract.**

Delegation contracts do not explicit performance expectations in terms of expected annual coverage/targets and coverage strategies, which would enable the Commune and the WSPs to establish and prioritize coverage targets/areas jointly, and which would enable the WSP to obtain relevant financial facilities (loans, credit lines, etc)

### **Economic impact of COVID-19 and communities' capacity to pay:**

Water service providers that struggled prior to the pandemic are now at higher risk for insolvency amid the growing cost of building and operating safely and diminishing revenue. 70% of the water systems' inputs are imported, COVID-19 measures and restrictions have impacted the cost of construction materials and equipment. This penalized them in the management of cash flow. Financial support from their related activities, particularly in construction, is also impacted. Profit margins from these activities have decreased, and managers have not prioritized investments for development. Revenues from water systems have also been disrupted by recoveries from beneficiaries.

The communities' ability to pay is disrupted by inflation (5.5% according to IMF<sup>19</sup>). In rural communities, household budgets are mainly oriented towards agriculture. The sale of rice remains the main source of agricultural income, accounting for 48% of the total agricultural income generated. COVID-19 restrictions have impacted the lives of the communities, where sales have decreased, and spending has shifted mainly to preparations for the next season.

### **MEAL System :**

Also, as the activities to increase access to water services are very dynamic from several actors, this indicator may be under-reported.

**Shared Water Connection-** First of all, in sites with water services managed by private services, we found on the field that people with private connections also provide water to multiple households. Field agents on the field count households newly connected to water and households

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<sup>19</sup> <https://import-export.societegenerale.fr/fr/fiche-pays/madagascar/presentation-economie>

receiving water to these households. However, moving forward, these households continue to provide water to additional households which are not counted in the system.

**Reporting gaps** - Second, the number of people gaining access to drinking water through Communes' initiatives is not yet systematically captured. The results captured mainly concern the capacities acquired by the Communes.

During the mid-term review reflections, we realized that this gap is because RANO WASH collects routine data for an outcome indicator that was supposed to be part of the evaluations (annual survey, for example) and not part of the routine monitoring activities.

During the annual survey, RANO WASH will survey households with connection and assess the average number of households and people receiving water from their connection. This information will be used as a correction factor to have a more accurate estimation of people accessing water in the targeted region.

### Management Contracts for the Water System set up by RANO WASH

To harmonize existing contracts and use the RANO WASH PPP model as a reference, the Ministry requested a review of the RANO WASH PPP delegated management contract model. The main concern is to clarify further the roles and responsibilities of the commune and the DREAH. Consequently, the five contracts awaiting signature at the Ministry level have been postponed. A meeting will be organized in January 2021 to validate changes and finalize the final model contract. This contract model will be used and promoted by the MEAH for PPPs in Madagascar.

### Improved use of latrines

33,005 people out of 4,452 targeted gained access to basic sanitation facilities, and 8,063 people out of 25,201 targeted gained limited access. The combination of behavior change approaches and support to local masons continued to bring positive sanitation access. The Project provided local masons with equipment and capacity building on technical components (i.e., quality construction and different latrine models) and business sales planning. These results are further discussed in the SO3 section.

Table 6. Number of people gaining access to limited and basic sanitation services, Q1.21

	Q1		FY21	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
	# of people gaining access to a basic sanitation service as a result of USG assistance			
Alaotra Mangoro	1,500	4,862	6,400	4,862
Atsinanana	1,500	13,876	6,600	13,876
Vatovavy Fitovinany	495	3,803	2,160	3,803
Vakinankaratra	200	7,374	3,000	7,374
Amoron'i Mania	482	743	3,400	743
Haute Matsiatra	275	2,347	1,440	2,347

	Q1		FY21	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
<b>Total</b>	4,452	33,005	23,000	33,005
# of people gaining access to a limited sanitation service as a result of USG assistance				
Alaotra Mangoro	8,500	2,066	37,629	2,066
Atsinanana	8,001	1,501	32,083	1,501
Vatovavy Fitovinany	3,950	1,147	15,750	1,147
Vakinankaratra	700	379	9,541	379
Amoron'i Mania	1,950	1,460	7,857	1,460
Haute Matsiatra	2,100	1,510	9,429	1,510
<b>Total</b>	25,201	8,063	112,289	8,063

### Activities planned for the next quarter

- Launch water infrastructure construction in Vakinankaratra, Alaotra Mangoro, Haute Matsiatra, and Amoron'i Mania;
- Finalize ESFs under review;
- Develop and submit new ESFs;
- Restitution and validation of non-validated APDs studies in Q1;
- Conduct new APS and APD studies;
- Conduct training for regional project staff on environmental compliance, climate risk management, and water quality monitoring;
- Follow-up on action plans related to ESF measures;
- Continue supporting first 100 water connections promotion;
- Finalize PPP contract model with the MEAH.

## IR2.3 Strengthened Technical and Business Skills and Competencies

### Output 2.3.1 Strengthened capacity-building for the private sector in business systems and technical operations

Three types of capacity building activities were delivered this quarter:

- Training of municipal teams on the RANO WASH drinking water PPP model in November 2020.
- Training of water services managers in Atsinanana on financial management. The team will also develop a training calendar with BNI for the other five regions.

- Training and coaching for small local entrepreneurs

### **Training of municipal teams on the RANO WASH drinking water PPP model in November 2020.**

RANO WASH conducted a training event for WSPs in the communes of the new intervention regions of Vakinankaratra, Amoron'i Mania, and Haute Matsiatra. The training took place in Vatovavy Fitovinany to visit communes that are already providing water services through PPPs.

The training allowed communes to understand better the legal texts/framework related to the Build Finance Operate PPP model, the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders during construction and operation for inclusive, sustainable services that comply with national standards. The Project will guide and coach these communes throughout the PPP process. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions to the commune government team and private operator in Andemaka and discuss good practices, challenges, and lessons learned.

#### **Box 3. Training Themes:**

- Build Finance Operate PPP model
- Roles and Responsibilities of the Contracting Parties
- Contractual obligations
- Water system operation and maintenance activities

### **Training of WSPs in Atsinanana on entrepreneurship and financial management**

To increase access to water services in the Atsinanana Region, RANO WASH organized training for water services managers on business management. The training covered the following points:

- Development of a marketing plan: product creation and planning for promotional campaigns
- Financial education: financial planning, budget management, cash flow management, and bank relations
- Preparing application files to apply for funding
- Human Resources management

BNI and MCB banks facilitated the financial education components. With these two banks, RANO WASH, BNI, and MCB will jointly provide support to the six enterprises to grow their businesses/increase their revenue and request financial services according to their needs. The six companies participating in the training showed great interest in the banks' information and guidance. In addition to the training provided, RANO WASH conducted a diagnostic of six (06) WSPs. Four main capacity-building issues were raised:

- Real-time data is missing ;
- A non-existent incident management program ;
- No operational data to inform decision-making;
- Lack of communication between the on-site operating teams and the decision-makers.

The Project developed the first outline for a coaching strategy in Q1 and will implement it in Q2.

### **Training and coaching for small local entrepreneurs**

With the collaboration of Youth First, RANO WASH aims to build the capacity of 44 young small WASH operators to develop their business and the quality of services.

The activity targeted 44 young entrepreneurs, including 19 men and 25 women, composed of 8 sanitary block managers, 17 seamstresses, and 19 local masons. The objective is to strengthen young entrepreneurs' capacity to respond to market needs by developing their entrepreneurial activities. The Youth First's mission is to: i) Develop and adapt tools to train participants; ii) Develop coaching tools to enable the "technical coach" to monitor the progress of participants, and iii) Monitor the program.

The program includes three phases (diagnostic, training, and coaching), and the first phase was implemented in November and December 2020, and coaching will be provided until November 2021. The majority of the trainees lacked visibility into their market potential and had no projections regarding their businesses' development. The training and coaching program will then focus on growing a business-oriented mindset among these small entrepreneurs.

In addition to the activities of Youth First, the Project continued to support local masons and seamstresses by providing demand-led VSLA support for new or existing VSLAs formed by local masons and seamstresses, which increases their network and facilitates access to finance, as well as linkages with other institutions such as schools and health centers. 171 local masons sold 866 sanitary products, and 225 local seamstresses sold 10,222 hygiene products<sup>20</sup>.

### **Support of young academics WASH business: UNIUM**

Since Q3 of FY20, RANO WASH has followed the progress of UNIUM, the youth-managed WASH company in Madagascar set up by students from the Polytechnic High School. To make progress in registering their company, the students conducted sales tests to see how the market behaved with their products.

The tests carried out at the level of resellers, and local points of sale offer good prospects. Launching a new product in a competitive market and managing to sell 49 units of soap on point-of-sale samples is a good result. For a small company, selling 70% of its production capacity at this stage will ensure market acceptance of the product. Thus, during the last coaching session, and by analyzing this data, the founders decided to take the next step and register their company. They named the company LIQUIDS to stand out from the old name and create a unique identity within the sector.

RANO WASH will work with the youth entrepreneurs to develop the LIQUIDS market. The marketing strategy for promoting water services aims to put in place a network of sales agents for water and related products in municipalities benefitting from water systems. This could become a rapid growth opportunity for new businesses and an opportunity for the sales agent network to become more viable by selling more products. The next steps will be to develop the small business's marketing aspects and provide support in creating communication tools.

### **Activities planned for the next quarter**

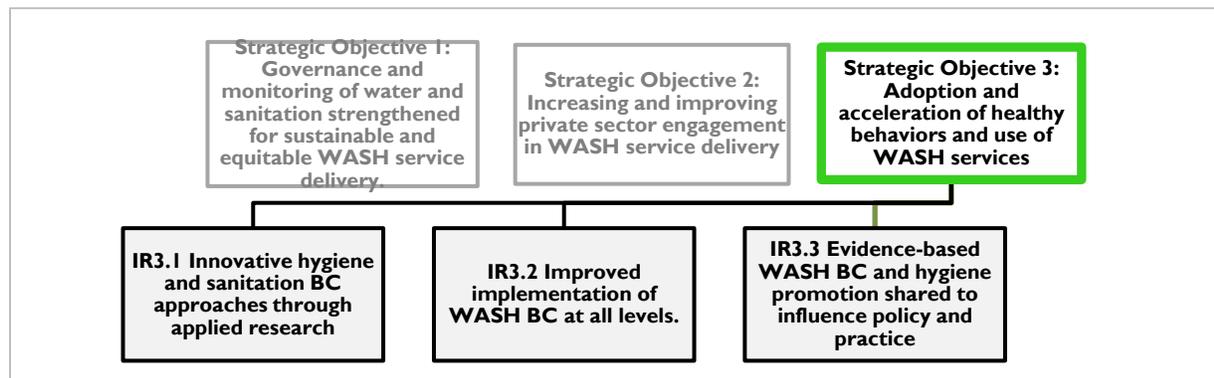
- Duplicating entrepreneurship and financial management training in other regions;
- Finalizing and implementing the operational strategy for marketing and enterprise coaching;
- Continuing UNIUM's coaching and the follow-up of Youth First mission.

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<sup>20</sup> Hygiene products include masks and sanitary napkins and sanitation products, different types of slabs, including SanPlat and Satopan slabs, and construction of latrines according to clients' needs.



## 2.1.2 Strategic Objective 3: Accelerating the Adoption of Health Behaviors and Use of WASH Services



### Key Achievements

- Production and printing of materials for the next iteration of the Grow-Up sticker behavior change approach
- 156 communities out of 183 targeted declared open defecation free. In addition, 3 (out of 19) communes self-declared as ODF and it is expected they will become ODF this fiscal year.
- Exceeded targets for access to basic sanitation with 33,005 people gaining access out of a targeted 4,452
- 3,358 VSLA members invested in WASH products and services out of 2,240 targeted for this period
- Supported health care facilities and schools to improve their WASH services and behaviors

Table 7. Summary of Progress for Key SO3 Indicators Q1,21

Key Indicators	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		FY21	
	Target	Actual								
# of new communities verified as ODF	183	156	228		296		45		752	156
# VSLA members investing in WASH products and services	2,240	3,558	1295		1470		306		5311	3,558
# of people gaining access to a basic sanitation service	4,452	33,005	6012		6119		1500		18083	33,005
# of people gaining access to a limited sanitation service	25,201	8,063	29487		30340		9000		94028	8,063

### IR3.1 Improved Hygiene- and Sanitation-Behavior-Change Solutions through Applied Research

#### Output 3.1.1: Behavioral science innovations for WASH BC are explored, iterated, and evaluated

##### Grow-Up Sticker Approach

During this first quarter, the team updated and produced all the field tools and materials that local promoters will use for the new iteration of the Grow-Up sticker approach in Q2, including handbooks, stickers, and guidelines. The updated tools were simplified to improve ease of use among local promoters.

##### Research

We selected Connecteo to conduct remote research on handwashing with soap and provide remote training for communal technical agents. Connecteo is a branch of TELMA<sup>21</sup> specializing in providing businesses assistance by using new technologies to target and work with clients. Connecteo is already working with MoPH and MSH in mobile messaging.

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.telma.mg/>

### **Output 3.1.2: Studies of integrated population, health, and environment (PHE) programming models stimulating cross-sectoral collaboration**

In Vatovavy Fitovinany, our collaboration with Valbio Center and Pivot NGO continues as part of our PHE promotion model. In Kianjanomby, part of the program was to plant trees around the water system's source. Valbio Center's technician still needs to assess what is to be done in terms of reforestation. Simultaneously, partnerships with the two existing schools are being explored to incorporate environmental education into their daily programs.

RANO WASH also provided technical assistance to NGO Pivot's Project in a health facility in Ifanadiana. As part of our larger partnership to complement health activities, BushProof provided engineering expertise and guidance on water access and infrastructure as part of NGO Pivot's package of activities destined to improve health services quality.

The Project also produced the "*Nde Ho Maitso*" tools as part of Output 2.2.5, which focuses on promoting and implementing measures to improve water resources management. These activities have a strong environmental component and focus on source protection activities, including (1) protecting watersheds from agricultural activities that can increase the risk of erosion and bushfires and (2) protecting watersheds from uncontrolled deforestation/logging and the depletion of their vegetation cover. The decrease in plant cover will affect the soil's integrity and the renewal of underground water reserves in the long term.

The "*Nde ho Maitso*" tools (posters and handbook) and activities help raise awareness of these issues. The Project encourages establishing partnerships with specialized local organizations to realize these activities. The tools are provided in Annex 19.

### **Output 3.1.3: WASH–nutrition linkages researched**

In Vakinankaratra, RANO WASH, the regional nutrition office, and the World Bank/SAF/FJKM-funded FAFI project formalized a partnership to reach the Vakinankaratra Madio 2021 initiative to eliminate open defecation in the region. The region is expected to be declared ODF this year. The model developed by the three entities is to combine WASH and nutrition activities at the household level, where selected households are led by "*Reny Mahomby*"/"Efficient mothers," whose children are monitored by the nutritional recovery centers funded by FAFI/World bank. The model is still in the pilot stage, and we will give more updates throughout the year.

#### **Activities planned for the next quarter**

- Research on handwashing with soap;
- Barrier analysis research on the use of water services managed by the private sector;
- Continuation of activities related to PHE;
- Continuation of collaboration with Nutrition regional offices.

## **IR3.2 Improved Implementation of WASH Behavior Change at All Levels: Communities, Government, and Private Sector**

### **Output 3.2.1: WASH BC program coordination improved in RANO WASH regions**

Regional coordination of activities also continued during this first quarter, mainly through SRMO meetings. As discussed above, partners in Vakinankaratra discussed how to achieve the ODF region objective this year. These discussions include sharing effective approaches and organizing institutional triggering for regional and district level government staff. Similarly, in Vatovavy Fitovinany, partners focused on achieving Vatovavy Fitovinany as an ODF region in 2022. Partners discussed the possibility of implementing the same approaches and launching a regional level contest for "ODF Communes." In Atsinanana, the discussions focused on using institutions like schools and health facilities as "models" for WASH services, including a sharing session on the success of the public middle school in Ampasimbe supported by RANO WASH's WASH-Friendly process<sup>22</sup>. There were also exchanges on successful activities led by ATEAH and their roles as a catalyst for change.

### **Output 3.2.2: WASH BC program coordination improved in RANO WASH regions**

#### **CLTS and Sanitation**

The local verification committees verified 156 communities as ODF out of 183 targeted for this period. The Project aims to verify 887 ODF for FY21. The lower Q1 targets reflect the challenging period for CLTS activities due to the rainy season and lack of cash in hand, making it difficult for households to construct latrines.

This year, RANO WASH aims to support 19 Communes to become ODF. The Andondabe Commune in Atsinanana was certified as ODF in Q1. This Commune was supported by both FAA and RANO WASH over the last two years. The three communes of Ambohimandroso, Ampasikely, and Bejofo in Alaotra Mangoro, which are self-declared as ODF, plan their verification process with the DREAH in Q2.

34 Fokontany were also verified as ODF in Atsinanana. To continue this effort, the team plans to organize a "Fokontany Madio" contest, encouraging the Fokontany in each Commune to become ODF. In Haute Matsiatra, the Project focused on institutional triggering and encouraged creating a communal decree regarding open defecation to support the triggering already conducted at the village-level.

In December, the Project organized a learning event on how to achieve an ODF Commune. The event took place in Ambatondrazaka, Alaotra Mangoro, as it is the first region to have achieved an ODF Commune. We are now moving towards larger-scale impact from sanitation activities at the fokontany and communal level. (see Annex 20). details the lessons learned during this event.

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<sup>22</sup> As a result of project support, STEAH and SLC members supported the school to mobilize resources and build new latrines and showers for the school children. They used the services of the local mason to do this.

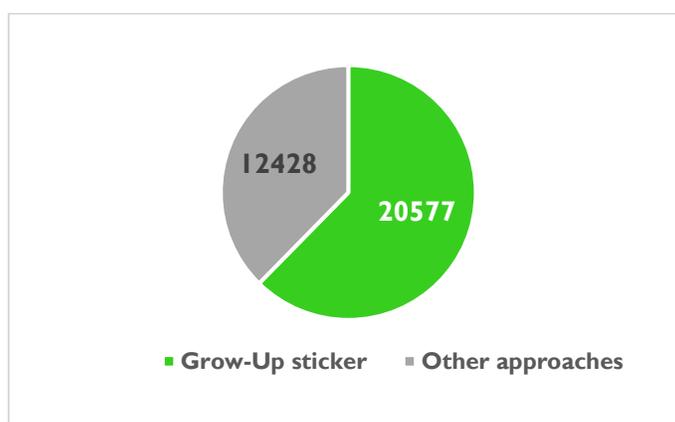
Rural Access to New Opportunities in Water, Sanitation, And Hygiene  
RANO WASH FY2021 Quarter I Report

Table 8. Number of communities verified as "open defecation free" (ODF) as a result of USG assistance

Regions	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4	FY21	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Target	Actual
Alaotra Mangoro	35	39	45	0	45	0	45	170	39
Amoron'i Mania	30	34	35	0	40	0	17	122	34
Atsinanana	33	20	50	0	55	0	32	170	20
Haute Matsiatra	25	28	10	0	35	0	10	80	28
Vakinankaratra	30	23	42	0	43	0	0	115	23
Vatovavy Fitovinany	30	12	20	0	150	0	30	230	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>228</b>		<b>368</b>		<b>134</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>156</b>

In Q1, 33,005 people gained access to a basic sanitation service out of a target of 4,452. This trend seems to show that people prefer improved and non-shared latrines. The Project observed this same trend in FY20, and we predict that households will maintain these preferences. All six regions show high rates of target achievement. Our data analysis shows that these achievements were obtained in intervention communes that used the Grow-Up Sticker approach, as presented in the graphic below:

Figure 4. Number of people gaining access to basic sanitation services



In contrast, only 8,063 people gained access to limited sanitation services out of a targeted 25,201. In FY20, field observation and data trends demonstrated a growing preference for non-shared or family toilets. Given the opportunity and the choice, this is the preferred solution among households. Collaboration with iDE will help us better explore rural households' real choices and promote the types of latrines adapted to their needs and durable. The Project will consider the

total target of 375,000 people with access to basic and limited services following the household trend.

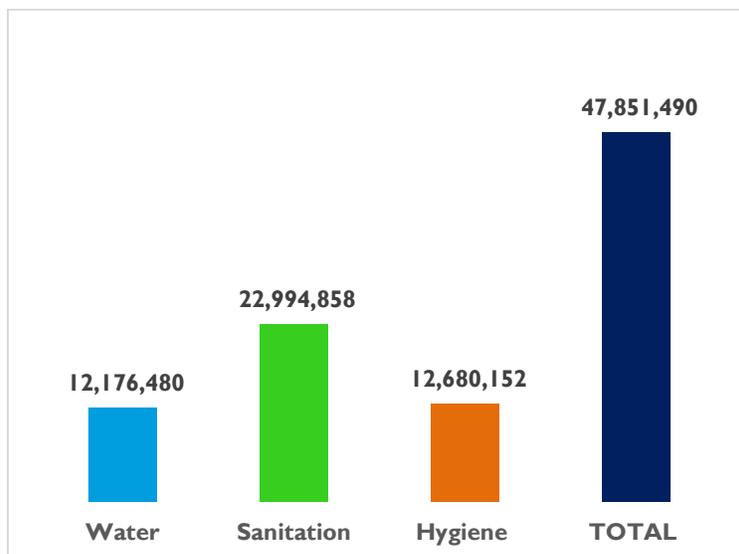
The Project also started its collaboration with iDE. We signed the contract and organized the kick-off meeting to plan the activities and clarify the steps and organizations for the next three months. They will help the project design the sanitation delivery model specific to each researched area.

### VSLAs

3,558 out of 2,240 targeted VSLA members invested in WASH services during this quarter, representing 53% of the target for this fiscal year. This good performance is a continuation of the VSLA contest, which started in FY20.

A total amount of AR 47,851,490 (\$ 13,292) was used by VSLA members to have better access to WASH services. This amount is considered a routine investment, meaning investments made in sites with no ongoing VSLA contest. Sanitation remains the most important investment made, as shown in the graphic below, though water use is relatively more important than in previous periods.

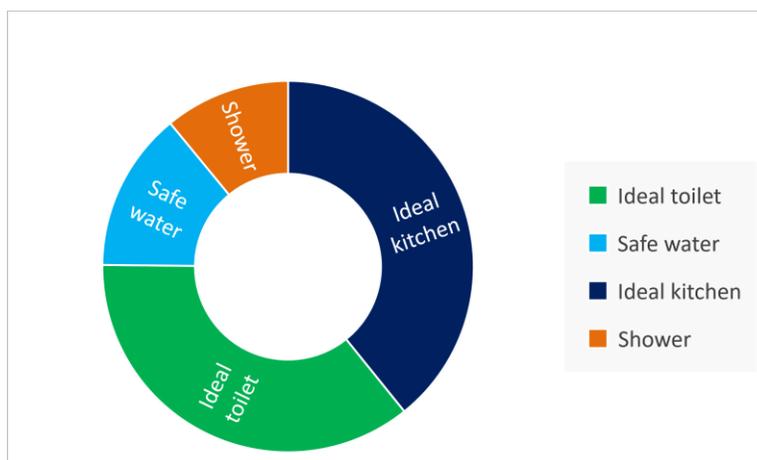
Figure 5. The amount made by VSLA members



Data collection for the VSLA contest was completed in Q1 and covered February to December 2020. A total of Ar 296,601,306 (\$ 82,389) were mobilized by the members, an impressive amount given that the Project only invested \$ 10,000 to purchase rewards<sup>23</sup>.

<sup>23</sup> We already reported in October in our annual report that the amount invested during the contest is an estimate of \$ 42,000. At the time, the data collection related to this activity was still ongoing. The new amount reported here includes the amount that we reported in our previous report to allow a better overview of this approach

Figure 6. Type of investment during VSLA contest



During this first quarter, the VSLA approach demonstrated its valuable contribution to other activities. There were many instances where VSLA groups were crucial to obtaining good results. In Vakinankaratra, two villages were verified as ODF after their VSLA contest. People also created new VSLA groups with RANO WASH support as they were impressed by the dynamism and commitment of the existing VSLA members. In Alaotra Mangoro, local masons decided to create their own VSLA group to improve their access to loans. The mason-led VSLAs plan to connect with financial services to develop their businesses. RANO WASH will provide coaching on mapping existing MFIs and banks and facilitating introductory meetings in collaboration with the SO2 team.

Finally, we collaborated with the Malagasy network of savings group promoters (RPGEM) to improve our SAVIX management information system<sup>24</sup> and improve the quality of the groups we work with to promote WASH activities. The financial performance and the overall maturity of each group are essential to facilitate their linkage with financial/banking institutions. The Project also set up the VSLA cluster in Vatovavy Fitovinany to improve regional activities coordination for savings groups in the region. Annex 21 provides more details on these two activities.

### Support to healthcare facilities and schools

In Q1, the Project continued its support to 19 healthcare facilities and 46 schools and identified additional institutional settings to achieve the targets for this year. However, the WASH-Friendly certification process remains challenging.

Although three health centers in Atsinanana passed the regional-level verification process by the MoPH, the central team that carried out the final certification process found that these health centers did not meet certain criteria. The main issues were: (1) medical waste management, (2) sustainability mechanism including operations and maintenance, (3) environmental hygiene. However, the recommendations were also related to the general state of these health centers' disrepair, including recommendations on the painting, roof maintenance, or fence installment. The Atsinanana team will work with the health centers to address these challenges and schedule a second verification in Q2.

<sup>24</sup> The SAVIX MIS was developed to track performance of savings groups

In Vatovavy Fitovinany, only 2 of the 11 self-declared WASH-Friendly schools evaluated by the DREN met the criteria. The main difficulties for the 9 schools were the lack of flyproof toilets. As part of our support to these schools, the Project will install new toilets in these schools in addition to its nudge package for behavior change. The tendering process for the latrines was launched in Q1 and is ongoing.

The resources allotted to these institutions are very limited, and they are expected to deliver quality services without the required financial resources and technical guidance. As a result, many have difficulties in meeting WASH-friendly criteria despite RANO WASH's targeted support. Thus, the Project also works with public health and education ministries at the national level to improve access to WASH services within institutions. RANO WASH, WSUP, and USAID Access are planning to facilitate an upcoming workshop on financing for WASH services in health care facilities, focusing on getting stakeholders involved to discuss and identify sustainable solutions.

### **Hygiene Promotion through Mass Campaigns and Media Campaigns**

#### *Hygiene promotion activities*

The Project continues to promote handwashing with soap as part of the COVID-19 response package. The Project celebrated World Handwashing Day was celebrated in October and worked with partners to carry out sensitization and communication on handwashing with soap. The field activities still consider the basic actions to prevent contamination, such as regular handwashing with soap, maintaining physical distance, using facial masks, and avoiding activities in closed spaces or with crowds. Collaboration with local radios is continuing, especially in Vatovavy Fitovinany, where we broadcasted 14 radio shows and 540 audio spots. In November, we also celebrated World Toilet Day by conducting special hygiene promotion activities in the six regions and reinforcing the Madagasikara Madio initiative.

#### *Support for marketing activities by local private sector actors*

The Project continued to provide support to local private sector actors. In Vatovavy Fitovinany, RANO WASH provided institutional support for its network of local masons and seamstresses to improve productivity, facilitate bulk purchases and orders of raw materials, and conducting simple marketing activities. The local mason network was then able to partner with FID, who ordered 123 SanPlat slab production for their well-being centers. In Atsinanana, the local team organized additional community meetings to promote water connections and water use. These meetings allow the local private operator and commune government representatives to address common questions by community members, especially related to purchasing water connections and pricing options.

### **Activities planned for the next quarter**

- Launch of the next iteration of Grow-Up sticker campaign: training for local promoters, identification of new households, and household-level activities
- Launch next VSLA contest for FY21
- Explore linkages of VSLAs with MFI and banks
- Support the WASH-Friendly process at the national level and support health centers and schools at the local level
- Hygiene promotion activities

### IR 3.3 Evidence-based WASH behavior change, and hygiene promotion shared to influence policy

#### Output 3.3.1 National-level networks, policies, and programs engaged for sustainable WASH BC

For this first quarter, we focused on two sets of activities to promote better policies for sustainable WASH BC:

1. Along with RPGEM, the Project initiated a collaboration with two entities within the Ministry of Finance and Budget: the "Coordination Nationale de la Finance inclusive (CNFI)" and the "Services des Institutions Financières (SIF)." These two entities are responsible for making sure that savings groups operate within a legal framework and that their members and their money are protected against any form of misappropriation. They can also facilitate linkages between savings groups and financial institutions. The team held the first series of introductory meetings and developed an action plan to move forward with them for our next set of activities: professionalization of village agents and linkages with financial institutions.
2. Collaboration with WSUP and USAID Access focused on jointly identifying ways to consistently support the MoPH to improve access to WASH services in healthcare facilities. Discussions focused on finding solutions to how those healthcare facilities can have sustainable access to WASH services, especially to address financing challenges.

#### Activities planned for the next quarter

- Organize joint field visits with RPGEM, CNFI, and SIF on activities related to savings groups
- Working sessions with stakeholders on sustainable access to WASH services for healthcare facilities

## 2.2 Gender Mainstreaming

This quarter, RANO WASH Gender and Social Inclusion activities focused on the training and monitoring of the project team and project partners on gender mainstreaming activities, capacity building of young WASH small entrepreneurs, and disseminating learnings and key results of the "Engaging men approach."

#### Training of Mayors and their teams on gender-sensitive public-private partnerships

RANO WASH organized an exchange workshop in Manakara on the practice of Public-Private Partnership with the mayors and their teams of 27 communes in Vakinankaratra, Amoron'i Mania, and Haute Matsiatra that have been short-listed to receive water system infrastructure construction. The session consisted of theoretical sharing sessions dealing mainly with the

contracting parties' attributions and the contractual obligations and a practical session using a field visit to learn from the operating system managed by BushProof in Andemaka. A session on Gender Sensitive Public-Private Partnership was held during the training, focusing on key tips considering gender dimensions throughout the PPP and PPP+ process.

RANO WASH organized an exchange workshop in Manakara on the practice of Public-Private Partnership with the mayors and their teams of twenty-seven municipalities, potential communes for the future water system construction from Vakinankaratra, Amoron'i Mania, and Haute Matsiatra. The session consisted of theoretical sharing sessions dealing mainly with the contracting parties' attributions and the contractual obligations and a practical session through a field visit to learn from the operating system managed by BushProof in Andemaka. A session on Gender Sensitive Public-Private Partnership was held during the training, focusing on key tips considering gender dimensions throughout the PPP and PPP+ process.

**Box 4. Some key tips considering Gender dimension throughout the PPP process**

- Use of the results of the socio-economic study to mobilize local social resources
- Develop a variety of services and products for inclusive and equitable access, including diversified services, different payment methods, etc.
- Valuing the local private sector and all users in all activities related to service delivery instead of engaging external resources as a source of employment and capacity building
- Collaboration with civil society organizations in the context of the

**Support regional teams in gender mainstreaming activities**

With the gradual deconfinement process, the Gender and Social Inclusion Advisor provided training sessions and guidance to improve the project implementation team's support and monitoring on gender and social inclusion in Atsinanana, Vakinankaratra, and Amoron'i Mania. The sessions covered the following points: 1) sharing on gender mainstreaming through the three strategic objectives of the Project, 2) reminder and explanation of the practical guides to be shared at the level of community actors and partners to fight the spread of COVID-19, and 3) clarifications on the specific gender and social inclusion activities for FY 21 as well as the expected results.

**Dissemination of achievements related to the approach "Engaging men approach"**

As part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign, the Ministry of Population, Social Protection and Promotion of Women, with all its partners' support, launched a campaign to end violence against women under the theme "Break the Silence." RANO WASH leveraged its gender transformation approach to complement this campaign: "men's engagement approach to women's empowerment." This is an approach used to reduce gender inequalities especially harmful behaviors, through interactive discussions to promote healthy behaviors and the complementarity of men and women according to their respective roles in society.

During the "Break the Silence" campaign, RANO WASH facilitated a sharing session by 26 "Engaged Men" from the six intervention regions to share their initiatives to reduce gender inequality and promote access to WASH services. The men reinforced their commitment to continue supporting girls and women in their respective communities to ensure equitable access to WASH services for all.

RANO WASH will continue to promote the approach in the other intervention communes of the Project and integrate these engaged men into the "gender-sensitive men's group" initiated by the Ministry of population and women's promotion to facilitate the scaling up of good practices.

**Box 5. Takeaways from the sharing session:**

- Men engaged in WASH make efforts to break out of their box defined by their masculinity according to societal norms.
- Engaged men provide different kinds of support to women and girls: physical assistance, provision of WASH services, listening and consideration in the decision-making process, encouraging women and girls to become leaders at the community level, confidence in the management of family assets.
- Engaged, adult, older and young men are proud of their attitude and behavior in supporting women and girls.
- Men's involvement in some activities previously socially forbidden for men makes the family more cohesive and effective.
- Men committed to women's empowerment



Picture 1. Men's engagement approach to women's empowerment: Sampilahy Oavy Evarista, commune Ambinarinony, District Brickaville, Atsinanana region



Picture 2.. Men's engagement approach to women's empowerment Rakotonirainy Leonard, commune Andranomanelatra,

**Support youth WASH small operators in entrepreneurship**

Through the partnership with Youth First, RANO WASH supported 44 WASH youth operators (24 men and 20 women) from the six intervention regions. The purpose of the partnership is to increase the number of young people providing WASH-related services and products and strengthen their capacity to develop their businesses and improve their service quality to satisfy local customers. The market for WASH services and products will improve young entrepreneurs' living conditions to enhance their development and empowerment.

### Activities planned for the next quarter

- Continue to monitor youth operators in WASH partnership with Youth First
- Coach regional, national, subgrantees teams and stakeholders on gender mainstreaming activities;
- Organize "social and analysis action" training for regional and subgrantee team members;
- Support women leaders from regions and communes by selecting champions to receive training to capitalize on their influence positions and improve their participation and communication skills.

## 2.3 Implementation Challenges and Modifications Made/Issues Addressed from the Last Quarterly Report

Challenges	Modification / Resolution
<p><b>Staffing the newly created Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene.</b> The delay in appointing Directors at the MEAH and DREAH levels was one of the major challenges for FY20. Initiatives from the MEAH team at the national and regional levels remain timid when the Directors are not yet appointed; thus, activities are limited. Moreover, the COVID-19 response was the main priority of the MEAH, which stopped some initiatives to strengthen the WASH system, such as a coordination meeting on all WASH interventions at the regional level to achieve common objectives, periodic feeding of routine data from the sector, etc.</p>	<p>All MEAH staff linked with our work has been appointed during the previous period. Coordination meetings at the regional level are resume during this quarter. Due to overlapping activities to make up for delays during the COVID 19 period, the sectoral meetings are the least prioritized for the actors (private sector, TFPs, CSO-HEAOs, MEAH). RANO WASH has strengthened its advocacy to prioritize annual regional sector reviews to close this 2020 planning cycle and to prepare for the 2021 cycle. Then, we postponed other activities like mobilization of the private-sector group and WASH-CSO for networking.</p>
<p><b>COVID-19</b> The pandemic's uncertain evolution is a great challenge for all project stakeholders as it delays decision making. The launch of the tendering and contracting process for new water systems was delayed by three months due to the lockdown, closure of administration, and prioritization of the MEAH's COVID-19 response. The</p>	<p>Gradual deconfinement began towards the end of FY20, the Project has always prioritized online meetings over face-to-face ones. The training not carried out have been caught up. Hygiene, barriers measures, are continuously applied in the project office</p>

Challenges	Modification / Resolution
<p>Project has adapted its approaches for business continuity and seized the opportunity to advance access to WASH services as a priority to respond to the pandemic. Travel restrictions at the national and local levels delayed several activities, such as data collection to finalize the WMDP, MEAL data collection, or the transport of equipment for the water systems.</p>	<p>It is mainly the effects on the general economy of COVID-19 that have been observed. Mobilization of businesses and households for the extension of water services has been difficult. RANO WASH has developed a marketing and capacity building strategy to support companies to increase the number of service subscribers.</p>
<p><b>Quality tests.</b> The analysis of water quality by the Institut Pasteur of Madagascar was limited this year because it was difficult to mobilize the IPM for water analyses that require on-site travel since the pandemic. Water operators continued the analyses with their means.</p>	<p>The IPM has resumed its operations to meet the needs of water quality testing at the regional level. The region of Vatovavy Fitovinany is still in the process of seeing with the IPM their availability.</p>
<p><b>Paradigm shifts regarding the private sector engagement</b> The main challenges in engaging the private sector in the provision of WASH services reside in considering the private sector as a development actor and partner and for all stakeholders to understand and adopt a market-based mindset. It starts with the project members themselves, who are more familiar and comfortable with community-based approaches and are suspicious of the private sector. Government and local authorities have historically promoted the idea of free public services and have not developed an enabling environment for private sector engagement and investment.</p>	<p>The Project organizes various events at all levels and with other stakeholders, such as communes, MEAH/DREAH, on the importance of the place of the private sector in inclusive and sustainable WASH services and the promotion of the business enabling environment in the WASH sector. The Project strengthens the private sector to be more proactive and aggressive in the market.</p>
<p><b>New challenges</b></p>	<p><b>Measures taken</b></p>
<p><b>Monitoring social changes to promote gender and social inclusion:</b> To monitor changes related to gender and social inclusion, having indicators to track social changes remains a challenge.</p>	<p>RANO WASH will organize a workshop between the project team to draw good practices and capitalize on monitoring social changes at the household and community level.</p>
<p><b>It is still difficult for the different actors, including project staff, to reconcile behavior change activities with WASH services use.</b> The traditional conception of behavior change as resulting from information and communication actions persists in individual and collective beliefs, sometimes making it difficult to implement more innovative</p>	<p>The Project is planning to organize sharing sessions with different actors to address this</p>

Challenges	Modification / Resolution
strategies at different levels, whether with other development stakeholders, public institutions and especially private sector collaboration.	
<p><b>Taxe sur les Marchés Public (TMP).</b> The introduction and roll out of the TMP occurred after the launch of RANO WASH restricted tendering process for new infrastructures. Most WSPs struggled to understand the new rules and practical implications for their current and future construction and delegation contracts</p>	<p>The Project held several events and online meeting, with consortium members, WSPs and the AOPDEM to determine the implication on current and future construction contracts and RANO WASH negotiated with the selected firms regarding the new rules on tax, and the validity of the offer started to end. Also, as a request from the firms, RANO WASH collaborates with the MEAH to get an official letter that will replace VAT exemption's letter, indicating each consortium member and its partners' name explicitly.</p>

### 3 MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND LEARNING (MEAL)

#### 3.1 Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) Update

The MEAL team, in collaboration with the program team, worked to define new process indicator and/or possible disaggregation of existing indicators to achieve two main objectives:

1. Provide more disaggregation during data analysis to inform project decision-making processes;
2. Use process indicators to inform project learning and therefore improve RANO WASH program quality.

Data collection forms will be developed and digitalized in Q2, and the team will be trained on these new data collection tools to avoid data quality issues.

The MEAL team also worked to adjust the RANO WASH project dashboard on PowerBi. These adjustments were based on the program team's request for new visualization to support program analysis at their level.

#### 3.2 MEAL System Update

##### 3.2.1 MEAL Capacity Building

In general, MEAL capacity building activities for the Q1FY21 period focused on the MEAL system refresher training.

Specifically, two training topics were mainly provided:

1. MEAL system refresher training: This training covered the data circuits, role and responsibility data collection tools, using electronic systems for data collection. Five of the six regions, namely Alaotra Mangoro, Haute Matsiatra, Amoron'i Mania, Vatovavy Fitovinany, and Atsinanana, conducted this refresher training. The training reached the implementation team at the regional level, including the Subgrantees technical team (coordinator, MEAL teams, district manager, Technical Assistants) and the regional technical team (Regional Manager, MEAL, regional SO manager).
2. Reporting system: This training included data validation (for data quality) and the reporting mechanisms in place (data flow map, data transmission, reporting). Only one region implemented this training that reached the technical team of the Subgrantee (except TA) and the regional technical team (Regional Manager, MEAL, regional SO manager).

The table below summarizes the number of people reached by each training and per region.

Table 9. MEAL Training Q1.21

Regions	Training themes	Number of people reached		Total
		Male	Female	
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Reporting system	10	5	15
	MEAL system	32	14	46
Atsinanana	MEAL system	51	12	63
Alaotra Mangoro	MEAL system	32	21	53
Amoron'i Mania	MEAL system	14	6	20
Haute Matsiatra	MEAL system	12	3	15
<b>Total number of people reached</b>		<b>141</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>197</b>

In the Vatovavy Fitovinany region, the people trained on the reporting system are included in those trained on the MEAL system. Overall, the RANO wash project built the capacity of 197 people, including 141 males (71.6%) and 56 females (28.4%).

### 3.3 Midterm review

During the reporting period, RANO WASH prepared the midterm review design through a detailed methodology and data collection tools. (Annex 8) The midterm review will be implemented during Q2.

The midterm review aims to:

- Use quantitative and qualitative methods to evaluate progress against the FY18-FY20 Annual Implementation Plans , evaluate achievements of the expected results as stated in the results framework, and in relation to their relevance to existing national policies and programs;

- Evaluate the sustainability of these results and the contribution of the activities/projects to the products/effects defined by the government of Madagascar.
- Evaluate the relevance/effectiveness/efficiency of the Project according to the priorities and needs; check the degree of compliance of the implemented Project with the objectives and targets set during its design and assess the degree of compliance of the achievements with the government strategy;
- Analyze the functionality and the efficiency of the consortium implementing the RANO WASH project.

### 3.4 Accountability

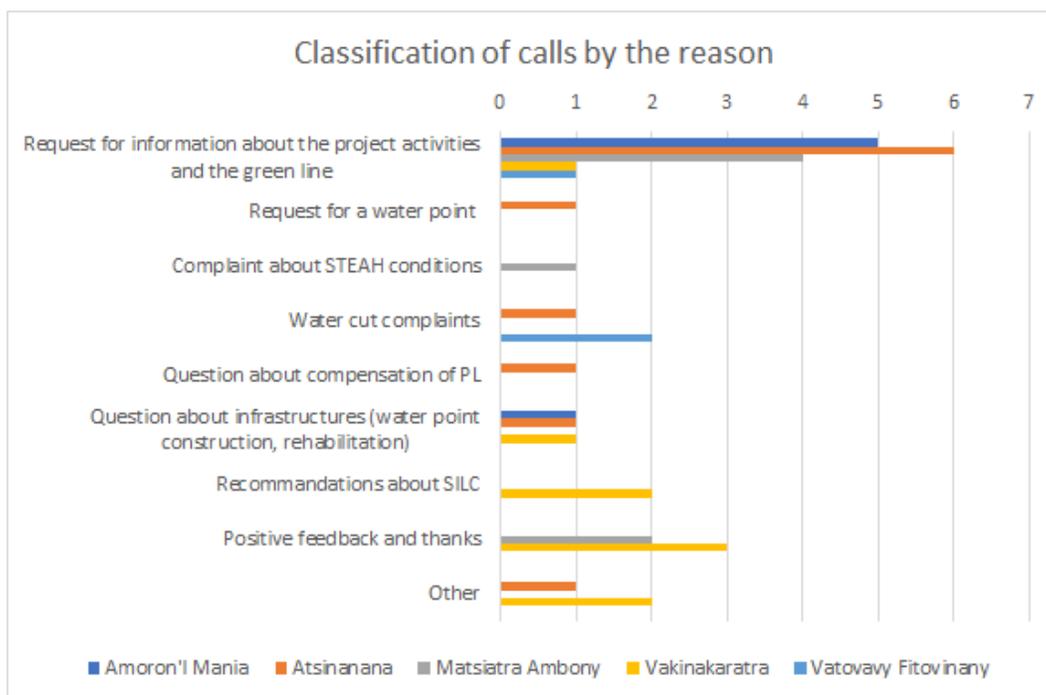
Overall, 37 feedbacks were received through CRS green line concerning the RANO WASH project. The distribution of the feedbacks per region and per district are presented in the table below.

Table 10. Green Line Calls per District Q1.21

Region	District	Number of Calls
<b>AMORON'I MANIA</b>	Ambatofinandrahana	2
	Ambositra	4
<b>ATSINANANA</b>	Brickaville	3
	Mahanoro	1
	Tanambao Manampotsy	1
	Toamasina II	2
	Vatomandry	4
<b>MATSIATRA AMBONY</b>	Ambalavao	2
	Lalangina	2
	Vohibato	3
<b>VAKINAKARATRA</b>	Antanifotsy	1
	Antsirabe II	7
	Betafo	2
<b>VATOVAVY FITOVINANY</b>	Ifanadiana	1
	Manakara	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>37</b>

As shown in the graph below, most of the feedback received was related to information requests about the project activities and the Green Line itself. The project team was able to respond to all these complaints and feedbacks to satisfy project participants.

Figure 7. Greenline feedback per region Q1.21



### Activities planned for the next quarter

- Conduct the midterm review and finalize the report;
- Conduct the midterm review learning workshop with project stakeholders;
- Finalize and digitalize the data collection tools that include the process indicators for all the SOs;
- Train staffs on the field on the new forms;
- Finalize the closing of USAID DQA findings;
- Conduct the Baseline study for the new regions;
- Support the delivery of some key learning products;
- Update the accountability mechanism in place by developing new mechanisms to collect participants' feedbacks and complaints.

## 4 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

### Personnel

During this quarter, RANO WASH added or replaced the following positions in our program coordination team:

- key personnel: Following USAID's approval, Berenger Tchatchou joined the Project as MEAL Director mid-November 2020;
- Marketing and Entrepreneurship Specialist;
- Senior Communication and Media Officer;

- Knowledge management Officer;
- Various position in the program support team: compliance officer, operations manager,

## Management

During the reporting period, all project offices continued their activities, adapting and taking relevant COVID-19 measures to conduct their activities (partial telework in Antananarivo, hybrid face to face and online meetings, implementation of hygiene measures).

The effects of the COVID-19 crisis are still impacting project activities. For example, companies are struggling to recover economically; communities are reluctant to spend on water services; IPM is trying to catch up on water testing but the backlog is still large. The impact of COVID-19, combined with the introduction of the TMP tax, also affected the launch of tendering process for the construction activities in FY20 Q4 through FY21 Q1 and the Project financial performance.

This quarter, the PCT focused on reviewing its internal management system and improving the quality and timing of internal deliverables.

Project management and coordination highlights from this quarter include the following:

- COP-CARE USA HQ Skype – Biweekly
- COP-DCOP/MEAL Programmatic and Technical Meeting – Weekly
- COP-DAF Finance/Operations Meeting – Weekly
- Project Coordination Team Meeting – Biweekly
- Steering Committee Meeting – June 2020
- Regional-PCT Skype Calls– Changed from Monthly to weekly since March 2020
- Regional-level Team Meetings – Biweekly to Monthly
- MEAL PCT/Region/Skype – Weekly
- MEAL Review PCT/Region Meeting/Skype – Quarterly

## Coordination

RANO WASH continues to engage with USAID monthly as well as with GoM partners at the regional, communal, and national levels.

As part of the COVID-19 coordination, RANO WASH attends periodic meetings with USAID HPN partners

## Events and Visits

Some of the more noteworthy visits/events during this quarter (excluding those at the regional level) are summarized in Annex 5.

## 5 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

RANO WASH's total expenditure in Q1 FY 2021 is \$1,212,227 representing a burn rate of 13% against the budget of \$9,189,673 for the Fiscal year 2021. (See Annex 2)

The Project contributed a total of \$ 94,373 in cost-share in the first quarter, representing 7% of \$1,436,860 planned for FY21. RANO WASH continues to monitor its target at the end of the project lifetime. (See Annex 2)

RANO WASH submits the required financial reports (SF425) for a cumulative expenditure of \$15,645,426 and a cumulative cost-share of \$1,614,600 to USAID on time.

## LIST OF ANNEXES

<b>ANNEX 1.</b>	<b>RANO WASH Success Stories Q1.21</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 2.</b>	<b>RANO WASH FINANCE &amp; COST SHARE Q1.21 UPDATE Q1.21</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 3.</b>	<b>Program Implementation Plan – Q1.FY21 Update</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 4.</b>	<b>RANO WASH Project Performance Review Q1, FY2021</b> ...	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 5.</b>	<b>Key Events in Q1.21</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 6.</b>	<b>RANO WASH Training Q1.21</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 7.</b>	<b>List of Communes in Program Areas, by District and Region</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 8.</b>	<b>RANO WASH Mid-Term Review</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 9.</b>	<b>RANO WASH TEAM</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 10.</b>	<b>List of Regional Coordination Meetings held in Q1.21</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 11.</b>	<b>Note on the scoping meeting of the TrackFin 2016-2019 process</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 12.</b>	<b>Quick Wins from the Local Structure Q1.21</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 13.</b>	<b>SE&amp;AM / MONITORING SYSTEM STRENGTHENING</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 14.</b>	<b>SE&amp;AM Upgrade Timeline</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 15.</b>	<b>WASH Sector Monitoring Systems Comparative Analysis</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 16.</b>	<b>List of APS, APD and WSPs Q1.21</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 17.</b>	<b>Water System Construction Q1.21 Update</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 18.</b>	<b>RANO WASH Marketing Plan for Water Service Providers</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 19.</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION AND MONITORING REPORT (EMMR)</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 20.</b>	<b>Sanitation Ladder (JMP)</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 21.</b>	<b>Nde ho Maitso tools</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 22.</b>	<b>How to Fully Reach Open Defecation Free Communes?</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 23.</b>	<b>Support for Savings Groups</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 24.</b>	<b>Research related to the use of privately managed drinking water services</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 25.</b>	<b>Men Engaged in WASH</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 26.</b>	<b>Communication and Media Update Q1.21</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>ANNEX 27.</b>	<b>RANO WASH in Pictures</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

## **RANO WASH**

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