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RANO WASH RURAL ACCESS TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE



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FY2021 Quarterly Report | October to 31 December 2021

RANO WASH

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

FY2021 Quarterly Report – Annual Report

I October to 31 December 2021

Submission Date: January 30, 2022

Cooperative Agreement Number: AID-687-A-17-00002

SUBMITTED TO

Patricia Norolalao, AOR, USAID/Madagascar

PREPARED BY

CARE International in Madagascar
RANO WASH Project Coordination Team
Appartement n°2, Immeuble La City,
Alarobia Morarano, Antananarivo 101, Madagascar

RANO WASH CONTACT

Sébastien Fesneau, Chief of Party
Tel: Mobile: (261) 34 11 588 68
Email: Sebastien.Fesneau@care.org

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FRONT PICTURE: Negotiation between the Commune of Ambatofitorahana in Amoron'i Mania and the investors during the Interregional Fair in Ambositra. (Photo credit: RANO WASH)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms and Abbreviations.....	iv
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.....	6
IRI.1 Strengthened Government and Stakeholder Commitment and Accountability to Sector Development.....	7
Output 1.1.1 Sector coordination and learning mechanisms operating effectively under strong national leadership.....	7
Output 1.1.2 Institutional capacity of the Ministry in charge of WASH developed to meet strategic needs.....	8
IRI.2 Improved Sector Monitoring, Analysis, and Learning, Influencing Policy.....	9
IRI.3 Strengthened Subnational Systems.....	14
Output 1.3.1 Decentralized resources available for sustained WASH service delivery.....	14
Output 1.3.2 Commune management capacities strengthened for WASH service delivery.....	14
IRI.4 Increased community control over WASH services.....	16
2.1.2 Strategic Objective 2: Increasing Private-Sector Engagement in Delivering WASH Services.....	19
IR2.1 Strategic Development and Innovation for Private-Sector Engagement in WASH Service Provision.....	20
Output 2.1.2 Regional WASH market development plans drafted.....	20
Output 2.1.3 Increased availability and accessibility of types and range of financial products for WASH services and products.....	22
IR 2.2 Improved Design, Construction, and Management of WASH Infrastructure..	23
Output 2.2.1—Improved Design and Construction of Sustainable WASH Infrastructure.....	23
IR2.3 Strengthened Technical and Business Skills and Competencies.....	34
Output 2.3.1 Strengthened capacity-building for the private sector in business systems and technical operations.....	34
Output 2.3.2 - Development of professional associations.....	36
2.1.3 Strategic Objective 3: Accelerating the Adoption of Health Behaviors and Use of WASH Services.....	37
IR3.1 Improved Hygiene- and Sanitation-Behavior-Change Solutions through Applied Research.....	38
Output 3.1.1: Behavioral science innovations for WASH BC solutions through applied research.....	38

Output 3.1.2: Studies of integrated population, health, and environment (PHE) programming models stimulating cross-sectoral collaboration	38
Output 3.1.3: WASH–Nutrition linkages researched.....	38
IR3.2 Improved Implementation of WASH Behavior Change at All Levels: Communities, Government, and Private Sector.....	39
Output 3.2.1: WASH BC program coordination improved in RANO WASH regions.....	39
Output 3.2.2: Innovative CLTS and WASH BC implementation	39
IR 3.3 Evidence-based WASH behavior change and hygiene promotion shared to influence policy	44
Output 3.3.1 National-level networks, policies, and programs engaged for sustainable WASH BC.....	44
2.2 Gender Mainstreaming.....	45
2.3 Implementation Challenges and Modifications Made/Issues Addressed from the Last Quarterly Report.....	47
3 Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL)	50
3.1 MEAL System Update.....	50
3.2 MEAL Capacity Building.....	51
3.3 . Baseline study in the three new regions.....	52
3.4 . Learning.....	53
4 Management and Administrative Issues	55
5 Financial Management.....	56
List of Annexes.....	57

List of Tables

Table 1. Summary progress toward key indicators Q1.22 Update	4
Table 2 Summary of progress towards key SO1 indicators Q1.22 Update.	7
Table 3. Status of set up of regional STEFIs	12
Table 4 Summary progress toward key SO2 indicators Q1.22 Update.	20
Table 5. Infrastructure planned in Q4 and completed in Q1FY22	27
Table 6. Planned construction works for FY22.	27
Table 7. Work completed FY21 with water users not yet accounted for	28
Table 8. Access to water services (new users) FY22.Q1 update	29
Table 9. Access to Sanitation Q1.22 Update	33
Table 10. Summary of Progress for Key SO3 Indicators Q1.22	37
Table 11. Number of communities verified as "open defecation free" (ODF) as a result of USG assistance Q1.22	40
Table 12. Implementation Challenges FY22.Q1 update	47
Table 13. type of issues reported through the Green Line, Q1.FY22 update	54

List of Figures

Figure 1 RANO WASH Consortium and resource partners	2
Figure 2. RANO WASH Regions.	3
Figure 3. Extract of Ambohitsimanova infrastructure data recorded on mWater	11
Figure 4. CSO-WASH Status From Q4FY21 to Q1FY22	17
Figure 5. ASUREP Status from FY21 to Q1FY22	17
Figure 6. SLC status from Q4.FY21 to Q1FY22	18
Figure 7, WASH investment made by VSLA	42
Figure 8. Evolution of the number of calls Jul-Aug-Sep 2021 per Region, CRS green line	54

List of Pictures

Picture 1. Training of actors involved in environmental monitoring during the exploitation phase in Alaotra Mangoro	25
Picture 2. Environmental monitoring in Antsoatany, Vakinankaratra	25

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AMIC.	Association Malagasy des Investisseurs en Capital (Malagasy Association of Capital Investors)
APS	Avant-Projet Sommaire (Technical Scoping Study)
APD	Avant-Projet Détaillé (Detailed Project Design)
AO	Agreement Officer
AOPDEM	Association des Opérateurs Producteurs et Distributeurs d'Eau à Madagascar (Association of Water Producers and Distributors in Madagascar)
AOR	Agreement Officer Representative
ASUREP	Association des Usagers des Réseaux d'adduction en Eau Potable (Water Users Association)
ATEAH	Agent Technique de l'Eau, Assainissement et l'Hygiène (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Technical Officer)
BC	Behavior Change
BCD	Behavior-centered Design
BNGRC	Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et Catastrophes (National Bureau of Disaster Risk Management)
BPOC	Budget Programme par Objectif Communal (Communal Program Budget per Objective)
BPON	Budget Programme par Objectif National (National Program Budget per Objective)
BPOR	Budget Programme par Objectif et Région (Regional Program Budget per Objective)
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere Inc.
CHV	Community Health Volunteers
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
COP	Chief of Party
CRM	Climate Risk Management
CRS	Catholic Relief Service
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTTP	Center for the Triage and the Treatment of the Plague
DAF	Director of Administration and Finance
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DGRE	Direction de la Gestion des Ressources en Eau (Direction of Water Resource Management)
DiMat	District Monitoring Assessment Tool
DIP	Detailed Implementation Plan
DMEAL	Director of Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning
DREAH	Direction Régionale de l'Eau, de l'Assainissement et de l'Hygiène
DREN	Direction Régionale de l'Education Nationale
DRSP	Direction Régionale de la Santé Publique
DSI	Direction of the Information System
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
EDBM	Economic Development Board of Madagascar
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation & Monitoring Plan
ERF	Environmental Review Form

ERR	Environmental Review Report
ESF	Environmental Screening Form
FAA	Fonds d'Appui pour l'Assainissement (Global Sanitation Fund)
FUM	Follow-up Mandona
FY	Fiscal Year
GEM	Groupement des Entreprises de Madagascar
GoM	Government of Madagascar
GSF	Global Sanitation Fund
IBM	Integrated Behavioral Model
ICT4D	Information and Communication Technology for Development
IP	Implementing Partner
IPTT	Indicator Performance Tracking Table
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
JSR	Joint Sectorial Review
KRFF	Local Committees at Fokontany Level
LDP WASH	Local Development WASH Plan
LP2D	Lettre de Politique pour la Décentralisation et le Développement Local
LSHTM	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
MCSP	Maternal and Child Survival Program
MID	Ministère de l'Intérieur et de la Décentralisation (Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization)
MEAH	Ministère de l'Eau, de l'Assainissement et de l'Hygiène
MEO	Mission Environmental Officer
MFI	Micro-Finance Institution
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
MNP	Madagascar National Parks
MOC	Maîtrise d'Ouvrage Communale (Communal Project Management)
MoEEF	Ministry of Environment, Ecology, and Forest
MoFB	Ministry of Finance and Budget
MoID	Ministry of Interior and Decentralization
MoNE	Ministry of National Education
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTDN	Minister of Posts, Telecommunications, and Digital Development
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NPP-WSH	National Platform for the Promotion of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
ODF	Open Defecation Free
ODDIT	Organisme de Développement du Diocèse de Toamasina (Toamasina Diocese Development Organization)
ONCD	National Office of Concertation and Decentralization
ORN	Office Régional de Nutrition (Regional Office of Nutrition)
PCDEAH	Plan Communal de Développement en Eau, Assainissement et Hygiène
PCT	Project Coordination Team
PGDI	Projet de Gouvernance et de Développement Institutionnel (Governance and Institutional Development Project)

PGRM	Projet de Gouvernance des Ressources Minières (Mining Resources Governance Project)
PHE	Population, Health, and Environment
PIC	Projet Pôles Intégrés de Croissance (Integrated Growth Pole Project)
PIDA	Program for Infrastructure and Development in Africa
PIRS	Performance Indicator Reference Sheet
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PNI	WASH National Investment Plan
PNP-EAH	Plateforme Nationale de la Promotion de l'Eau, Assainissement et Hygiène (National Platform for the Promotion of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PPR	Performance Plan Report
PSEAH	Programme Sectoriel en Eau, Assainissement et Hygiène
Q2	Financial Quarter two
RANO WASH	Rural Access to New Opportunities in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
RDONE	Regional Director of National Education
RDOPH	Regional Director of Public Health
RDoWEAH	Regional Director of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
RPGEM	Réseau des Promoteurs de Groupes d'Épargne à Madagascar (Savings Groups Promoters Network in Madagascar)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SE&AM	Suivi Eau et Assainissement de Madagascar (Madagascar Water and Sanitation Monitoring)
SILC	Specialized Investment and Lending Corporation
SLC	Structure Locale de Concertation (Local Dialogue Structure)
SMILER	Simple Monitoring of Indicators for Learning and Evidence-based Reporting
SMMEC	Société Malgache de Mutuelle d'Épargne et de Crédit
SO	Strategic Objective
SRB	Service Régional du Budget – Regional Budget Office
SRMO	Structure de mise en œuvre de la coordination Régionale
STEAH	Service Technique de l'Eau, Assainissement et l'Hygiène (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Technical Department)
STeFI	Suivi Technique et Financier (Technical and Financial Monitoring)
STH	Soil-transmitted Helminth Infections
STTA	Short-term Technical Assistance
SWA	Sanitation and Water for All
SWAp	Sector-wide Approach
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
TA	Technicien d'Appui
TDY	Temporary Duty
TFP	Technical and Financial Partner
TOR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government

**Rural Access to New Opportunities in Water, Sanitation, And Hygiene
RANO WASH FY2022 Quarter I**

VAT	Value Added Tax
VA/PSP	Village Agent/Private Service Provider
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WALIS	Water for Africa through Leadership Institutional Support
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WASH-BAT	WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool
WASH-BC	WASH Behavior Change
WHO	World Health Organization
WMA	WASH Market Assessment
WMDP	WASH Market Development Plan
WQAP	Water Quality Assurance Plan
WSP	WASH Service Provider

I PROJECT OVERVIEW/SUMMARY

Project Name:	Rural Access to New Opportunities in Water, Sanitation, And Hygiene, Madagascar (RANO WASH)
Activity Start Date and End Date:	June 15, 2017—June 15, 2023
Name of Prime Implementing Partner:	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere Inc (CARE)
Cooperative Agreement Number:	AID-687-A-17-00002
Name of Subawardees	Catholic Relief Services (CRS), WaterAid, BushProof and Sandandrano
Major Counterpart Organizations	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
Geographic Coverage	<u>250 communes in 6 regions:</u> Alaotra Mangoro, Amoron'i Mania, Atsinanana, Haute Matsiatra Vakinankaratra, and Vatovavy Fitovinany
Reporting Period:	I October to 31 December 30, 2021

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. In November 2021, USAID approved a 12-month no-cost extension until 15 June 2023. CARE manages the RANO WASH consortium with core partners Catholic Relief Services (CRS), WaterAid, BushProof, and Sandandrano and access to a broad range of resource partners (Figure 1).

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: Alaotra Mangoro, Amoron'i Mania, Atsinanana, Haute Matsiatra, Vakinankaratra, and Vatovavy Fitovinany. A full list of the communes in the Project regions is presented in Annex 10.

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

Rural Access to New Opportunities in Water, Sanitation, And Hygiene
RANO WASH FY2022 Quarter I



Figure 1 RANO WASH Consortium and resource partners

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 Plan¹ through contributions to three out of four program components²:

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 2021, which corresponds to the first quarter of the FY2022 fiscal year and the first reporting quarter of the RANO WASH project.

¹ <https://www.globalwaters.org/wherewework/africa/madagascar>
https://www.globalwaters.org/sites/default/files/wfw_madagascar_country_plan.pdf

² The fourth component is Urban Sanitation and Sanitation Service Provision.

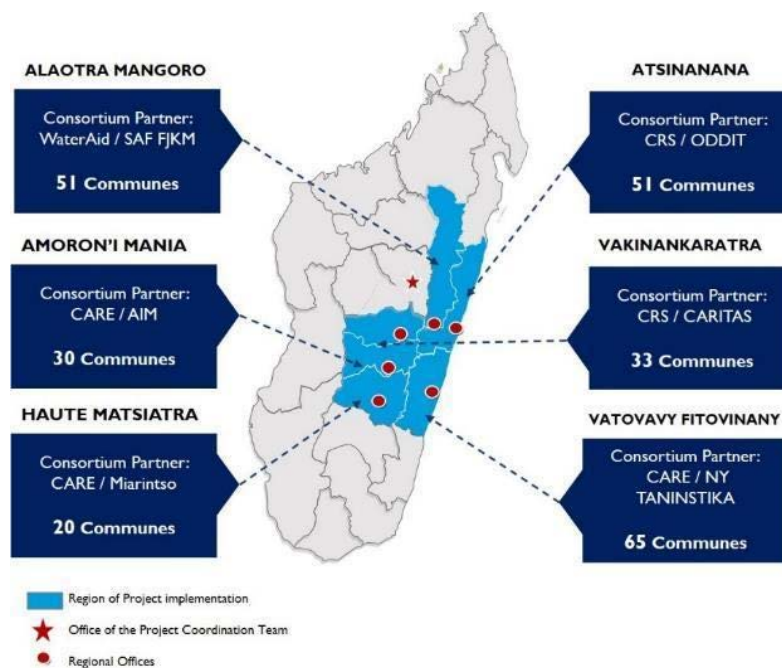


Figure 2. RANO WASH Regions

2 ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

2.1 Implementation Status

During the first quarter of FY 2022, the RANO WASH project was implemented in a fairly favorable environment. COVID-19 continued to affect the Malagasy population's daily lives. Some relaxation in health measures against COVID-19 has been noted. The health emergency was lifted at the national level on September 3, 2021. RANO WASH consortium members continued to apply sanitary measures and protocols to continue activities members. Several team members were sick, fortunately with mild cases of COVID-19, and were able to resume activities. Travel between the intervention regions continued. Several events, such as fairs to promote private sector investment in the WASH sector and global Toilet and Handwashing with Soap Days, were held to reinforce messages about healthy WASH behaviors.

However, the drought delayed the agricultural season and affected the socio-economic life of the population. As a result, more than half of the rice-growing area had not been transplanted by the end of December, and water availability for consumption is critical. Water from wells has begun to dry up in several of the Project's intervention communes. Communities, especially in the highlands, were in the midst of the lean season, and mobilizing them for WASH activities, such as building latrines and installing water connections, was a big challenge. The Project had to reinforce support to the Communes in protecting water resources.

Collaboration with MEAH and the DREAHs continues, and the change in the DREAH of Vakinankaratra did not impede the continued implementation³ of activities in this region. Increasing access to water services, scaling up, and improving sanitation services are still two important issues for the Project. This quarter, in coordination with the MEAH and the

³ The continuity of the State has been respected for this time. Before, often, at each change of administration, the DREAH do not dare to take decisions for months because they are convinced that they will be revoked soon.

DREAHs, the Project organized three WASH sector fairs to promote the sector's market opportunities and encourage private sector members to invest in WASH services. The results are promising, but the Project will need to further support Communes and investors to follow up on initial commitments. Considering lessons learned and limited opportunities from linking water service providers with commercial banks, we have explored financing opportunities with capital investment and guarantee funds. While the WASH sector is very new to these institutions, these investment funds expressed great interest in the business opportunities offered by the sector and the added value of the services on the lives of the population. A pilot meeting, gathering investment funds and several WSPs, was organized in December, and a pilot project in the Alaotra Mangoro region is underway. In Q2.FY22, the Project plans to organize a national event on WASH financing in coordination with the MEAH to present and promote these financing opportunities and linkages with the private sector, donors, and other WASH actors.

RANO WASH's partnership with iDE to develop a sanitation market model for rural Madagascar continued this quarter. The pilot project team is in place, and iDE will continue to support the project remotely.

OVERALL INDICATOR PROGRESS

The table below summarizes the evolution of the indicators for the first quarter of FY 2022.

Table 1. Summary progress toward key indicators Q1.22 Update.⁴

Key Indicators	Q1			FY22		
	Target	Actual	%	Target	Actual	%
# of people gaining access to basic drinking water services	24,414	24,757	101%	89,122	24,757	28%
# of people gaining access to safely managed drinking water services	5,352	1,097	20%	36,270	1,097	3%
# of people gaining access to a basic sanitation service	18,383	10,031	55%	100,000	10,031	10%
# of people gaining access to a limited sanitation service	4,438	5,019	113%	30,000	5,019	17%
# of institutional settings gaining access to basic drinking water services as a result of USG assistance	41	34	83%	96	34	35%
# of communities verified as "open defecation free" (ODF) as a result of USG assistance	267	310	116%	1360	310	23%
# of Communes certified as "open defecation free" (ODF) as a result of USG assistance	9	7	78%	34	7	21%

Access to basic drinking water services significantly increased this quarter, especially in the Atsinanana and Amoron'i Mania regions. The two main contributing factors to these results are: i) support to WSPs through the deployment of piping and social connections in existing systems, ii) support to Communes and their local partners to upgrade existing collective water points to meet the required standards of basic drinking water services. It should also be noted

⁴ 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](https://www.unwater.org/publications/who-unicef-joint-monitoring-programme-for-water-supply-sanitation-and-hygiene-jmp/) 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/)

that three water systems built in FY21 in the Atsinanana Region started their operation this quarter.

The slowdown of the sanitation indicators is observed every year during this period. Similar results and lower performance were reported in the Q1.FY20 and Q1.FY21 reports. This period of the year does not offer optimal conditions for sanitation (rainy weather in coastal areas, drought in highland, lack of cash in hand, non-availability with other profit-making activities, preparation of end-of-the-year celebrations for communities...).

From our experience to date, sanitation results tend to pick up in Q2, allowing us to catch up on the numbers.

2.1.1 Strategic Objective I: Governance and Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Strengthened for Sustainable and Equitable WASH Service Delivery



Key Achievements

- Madagascar has **resumed** the implementation of its **national sector reviews** on December 11, 12, which allowed MEAH to exchange with stakeholders on past achievements and directions to achieve the 2023 WASH performance objectives;
- **2 regions out of the 6 regions** of intervention of RANO WASH **implemented their regional sector reviews**. The other 4 regions had to reschedule for Q2.FY22 following the timing of the national annual review;
- **222 municipalities** continued to **update the SE&AM** during Q1.FY22. Again, demonstrating the feasibility of quarterly WASH reporting by communes with the necessary support;
- **156 communal WASH CSOs are operational**, exceeding the target of 150 for Q1.FY22. These associations protect the rights of WASH services users through existing accountability mechanisms and space for dialogue.
- **105 communes have functional accountability mechanisms** to value community feedback and input into decisions by authorities and service managers.
- **41 communes successfully validated their primary budget in December 2021** with a WASH line item, indicating communes' commitment to strengthening the quality of WASH services provided to their constituents.

Table 2 Summary of progress towards key SOI indicators Q1.22 Update.

Key Indicator	Q1			FY22		
	Target	Actual	%	Target	Actual	%
Progress on the pathways to set up regional coordination*.	Phase 6 Year 21	Phase 6 Year21	100%	Phase 5 Year 22	Phase 6, Year21	100%
# of intervention communes increasing WASH budget	33	20	61%	80	20	25%
% common reporting in SE&AM (out of 250 Communes)	80%	88%	110%	86%	88%	102%
Progress of Capacity of DREAH to train and coach communes	Not applicable for Q1	Not applicable for Q1	N/A	6 DREAH manages a STEAH dashboard	Not applicable for Q1	Not applicable for Q1
# of intervention communes engaging with the private sector to provide WASH services	56	56	100%	105	56	53%
# Commune with trained STEAH	220	223	101%	245	223	91%
# communes with WASH User groups operational	125	239	191%	200	200	117%
# of intervention communes with functional WASH accountability mechanisms	138	105	76%	200	105	69%

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

In FY2022, RANO WASH efforts will focus on seeking leadership from the central Ministry to oversee and monitor the effectiveness of regional coordination mechanisms and to mobilize the sector at the national level to find a more effective form of coordination that will support the regions in finding solutions to challenges that cannot be solved at their level.

Madagascar resumed the implementation of its sectoral reviews on December 11 and 12⁵, which allowed MEAH to exchange with stakeholders on past achievements and technical orientations proposed by the Ministry to achieve the 2023 performance objectives.

The Ministry's leadership in the preparation of the workshop and its implementation was demonstrated in several ways: strong internal preparation work for the diagnosis of each theme, leadership of the MEAH directors⁶ for each thematic topic in both the preparation and facilitation of the workshop, organization of logistics as well as the management of online participants.

⁵ The last sectoral review was held in 2015

⁶ (1) the general coordination and preparation of data is ensured by the Information System and Monitoring and Evaluation Department, (2) data analysis, preparation of thematic topics, facilitation of discussions as well as thematic reporting is ensured by the different technical managers (the DAE team for drinking water supply, the DAH team for sanitation and hygiene, ANDEA for IWRM and climate change, the DRCD for the framework documents)

The workshop was attended by technical and financial partners, private sector representatives, and members of civil society. It was agreed with the Ministry that a joint planning workshop will be held during Q2 to improve sector coordination and monitor the consideration of the guidelines for joint participation in the sector's 2030 goal and identify gaps in terms of intervention.



Two of our six intervention regions, the Vatovavy Fitovinany region and the Atsinanana region, completed their regional sector reviews in November and December 2021. The six intervention regions of RANO WASH have prepared to implement their sectoral reviews before the end of December. Unfortunately, the regions of Alaotra Mangoro, Vakinankaratra, Amoron'i Mania, and Haute Matsiatra had to reschedule for Q2 because of overlapping dates with the national review and the fairs between private sectors and communes organized during December.

We supported the MEAH's intervention at a symposium for decentralized and deconcentrated authorities organized by the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization (MID) so that the MEAH reinforces the idea of the communal project ownership, to participate in strengthening the messages for WASH and reset the inter-sectoral collaboration between the two ministries. In this context, in collaboration with MEAH and MID, RANO WASH supported the distribution of 200 brochures on communal ownership to national, regional, and communal authorities. The messages focused on the texts and laws designating the communes as project owners and the measures to be taken to promote private management of WASH at the communal level.

Output 1.1.2 Institutional capacity of the Ministry in charge of WASH developed to meet strategic needs

The National WASH Policy has been signed and validated by the Government Council and is awaiting a date for submission to the Council of Ministers in the next parliamentary session in May 2022.

Some work sites are currently open in collaboration with the Ministry to advocate for adopting methods to ensure the effectiveness of the Ministry to lead the sector. The points below share the progress of these initiatives.

RANO WASH is working with six focal points at the Ministry level to test and promote the Life Cycle Cost (LCC), which aims to help communes improve their planning by considering

all the costs required for the life cycle of services. These focal points visited the DREAHs and seven communes to disseminate the tool and adapt it for these seven communes. Work is underway to improve the tool, particularly in (1) the presentation of the commune's WASH assets to make it easier for the various stakeholders to read, (2) making the simplified model more realistic for large repairs, (3) having a more harmonized vision for the direct supports to be discussed to strengthen the capacity of the communes, (4) correcting errors when integrating the cost of inflation, and (5) improving the presentation to assist in the dialogue between the need for funding and the sources of funding that can be mobilized.

The second group of discussions concerns the improvement of links between regional and national planning. A process is already operational internally between the central Ministry and its regional branches. The challenge is that these exchanges only concern PIP (Public Investment Plan) activities. The activities link the national level calendar and the planning and monitoring activities implemented at the regional SRMO level. The challenge is to make the two timetables coincide with the tools used. A first draft of the proposed framework is already integrated into the new SE&AM, and the team is working on it to prepare the national joint planning. RANO WASH will support its six intervention regions to implement the finalized tool.

Activities planned for next quarter

- Support MEAH and WASH sector actors in organizing sector planning based on the last sector review;
- Support the DREAH of the four remaining regions (Alaotra Mangoro, Vakinankaratra, Amoron'i Mania, and Haute Matsiatra) in the conduct of sector reviews and regional sector planning;
- The RANO WASH team will continue to participate in WASH thematic groups within the coordination mechanism to promote the systems approach, the involvement of private operators in WASH, and social inclusion;
- Continue to coach private sector actors in advocating for an improved enabling environment that facilitates private investment in the WASH sector through the existing platform (AOPDEM);
- Continue to coach local, regional, and national CSOs to implement and refine action plans for advocacy activities to clarify roles and responsibilities and the importance of their participation in dialogue platforms such as the SLC or SRMO to make their voices heard within national and regional platforms.
- Support MEAH and DREAH in promoting the LCC in our 7 test communes.

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

Output I.2.1 SE&AM strengthened and extended

Our vision 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 our progress during Q1.FY22 that contributes to this vision.

The MEAH's Information System and Monitoring and Evaluation Department (DSISE) team presented a draft of the new SE&AM during the national sectoral review. The monitoring and evaluation plan for the sector was established in Q4.FY21 with feedback from central ministry staff, regional ministry staff, and some sector stakeholders. The new SE&AM computer system is currently operational on the MEAH internal network. It currently integrates data from the old SE&AM system and, as defined in the sector's monitoring and evaluation manual, official

data from the General Census at the commune level (RGPH3) and data from the MICS 2018. The testing period of the computer system with the main users will be carried out during Q2, following technical challenges in connecting the central Ministry for the SE&AM online.

At the local level, 222 out of 250 communes transferred WASH data to DREAHs during Q1, demonstrating the feasibility of quarterly WASH reporting by communes. Quarterly WASH reporting is currently considered a routine task for STEAH. Lessons learned from these local efforts will be used to inform programming for the rollout of the new SE&AM.

Box 1. Examples of points to consider for the deployment of the new SE&AM

1. ensure support activities to maintain periodic reporting at the commune level,
2. ensure support for the internal organization of the communes to promote data quality and fluidity,
3. maintain periodic reflection to improve the process to continually guarantee data quality
4. provide the necessary amount of time for the agents in charge of the process at both the local and DREAH levels,
5. ensure the proactivity of the DREAH to readjust the challenges encountered promptly,
6. ensure the valorization of these data through their use.

Box 2. Challenge of the reference units in SE&AM case Alaotra Mangoro

While the geographic references at the commune and fokontany level are stable for reporting, the assessment of the lists of localities and their delimitations differ according to the stakeholders and make it difficult for the DREAH team to compile these data. For these localities, references are already given at the level of SE&AM and discussed with the communes during the baseline development in 2017-2018. In the case of Alaotra Mangoro, projects or institutions such as ORN, ASOS, Ambatovy Project, RANO WASH use different references according to the needs of the approaches used for their activities. Since November 2021, with the support of RANO WASH DREAH, Alaotra Mangoro has been experimenting with the harmonization of this list in consultation with the communes and various stakeholders. A list of designed localities has been established as a result of these dialogues for the 51 communes of intervention of RANO WASH, and the next step is the integration of this list in SE&AM as a new reference for the region as well as the migration of the current data in SE&AM for these localities.

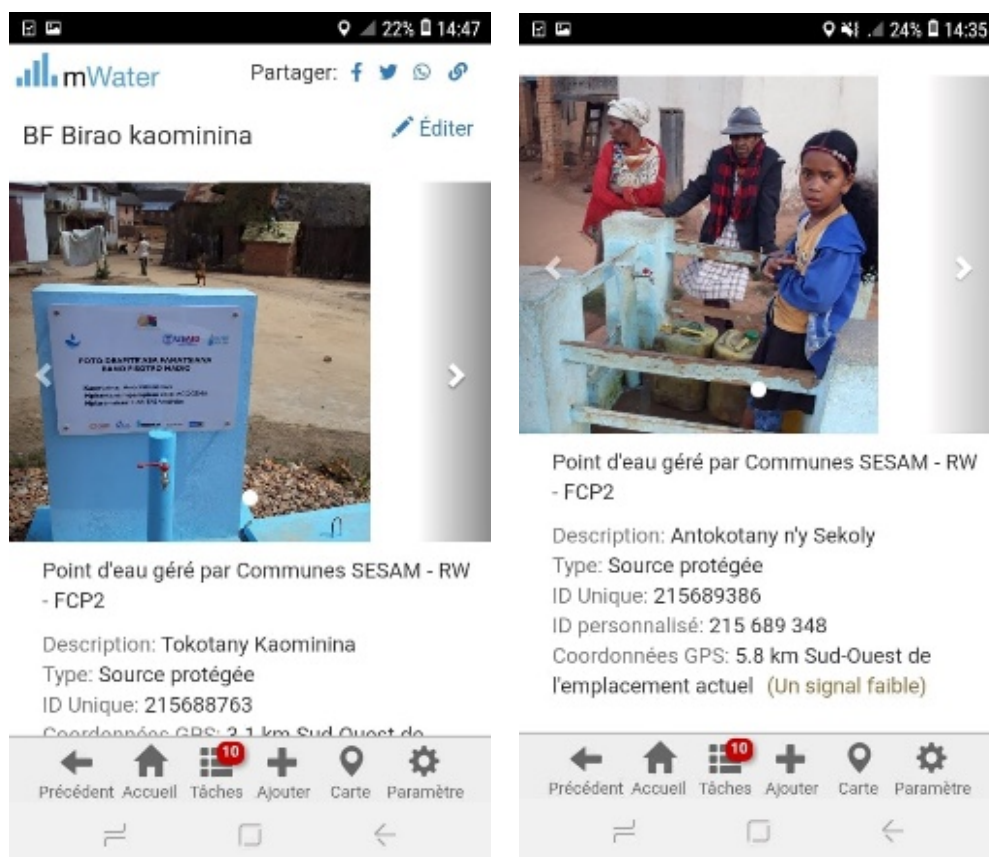


Figure 3. Extract of Ambohitsimanova infrastructure data recorded on mWater

Box 3. A skills review followed by practice to redress the challenges of using mWater in 6 STEAH of Vakinakaratra by the SRSE team of the DREAH of Vakinakaratra.

RANO WASH provided logistical support for the event and technical support to the DREAH officers to conduct the review. The event consisted of a classroom review reinforced by technical reminders and field practice in the commune of Antsoatany in November. In December, the communes finalized the inventories of WASH sites and infrastructures at the system level, which are currently awaiting validation by the DREAH team.

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

Three activities were organized to strengthen the learning practice in our intervention regions:

1. learning on technical services of WASH,
2. operationalization of STEFI services to identify learning to improve the model of drinking water management at the level of each region,
3. a visiting exchange of STEAH Vakinakaratra in Alaotra Mangoro,
4. some events that have revived the usefulness of a continuous exchange at the SRMO level.

1. Learning about Communal WASH's technical services (STEAH)

A learning workshop on the criteria for the empowerment of communes as project owners for WASH focusing on technical services in charge of water, sanitation, and hygiene was

organized in Antsirabe on November 31 and December 1, 2021. RANO WASH supported the MEAH to conduct the workshop in collaboration with the MID, the DREAHs in the six intervention regions, the chief district, communes, and STEAH. The discussions focused on exploiting the survey of communes and DREAH of our six intervention regions.

The testimony of the first concerned (STEAH, Mayor) surprised the national officials on the foresight and capacity of these technicians to support their daily activities. The DREAH supported the training and coaching they undertook during the year to accompany these communes and they shared their will to continue this STEAH experience sharing initiative in their respective regions, through SRMO meetings.

2. the operationalization of the Regional Technical and Financial Monitoring Services (STEFI)

The operationalization of STEFI (technical and financial monitoring services) in our six regions to monitor the performance of private water supply operators and the communes in their role as the project owner. This monitoring also aims to learn from these municipalities' experiences and advise those concerned. The table below presents the situation at the regional level for the operationalization of regional STEFIs.

RANO WASH's strategy is to ensure the DREAHs take responsibility for implementing STEFI, with the support of the SRMO and for enhancing the value of the exploitation of these reports. While the MEAH is the WASH sector regulator, the DREAHs play this role in practice in the absence of the SOREAH.

Box 4. Some points to illustrate the learning points on STEAH

Observed or desired sign on effective STEAH: (1) Politically neutral, (2) Someone that is valued by society, (3) Have the required technical expertise, (4) having a great sense of collaboration, (5) having the conviction of stability in their work, (5) are clear in their roles and responsibilities, (6) active as members of the SLC, (7) active in monthly district meetings.

Factors related to the commune that has promoted the effectiveness of STEAH: (1) transparency in the recruitment of the STEAH, (2) inclusion of the STEAH's salary in the commune's budget, (3) inclusion of the STEAH in the commune's organizational chart, (5) fostering feedback mechanisms on the services provided by the STEAH with effective monitoring and coaching by their superior.

The debate involving national and intersectoral bodies for more stability of this position and sustainability of the initiative: (1) a need for a common vision between MEAH and MID for the function of the STEAH, including their role and responsibility, the funding model of the position, their technical and organizational attachment (2) the institutionalization of STEAH at the commune level, (3) source of funding to ensure the training of STEAH and their coaching

Table 3. Status of set up of regional STEFIs

Alaotra Mangoro	Private managers' reports are starting to be submitted to the DREAH.
Atsinanana	A first cycle was carried out during Q3FY21, where for the first time, the drinking water managers filed their reports with the DREAH. For this second cycle, none of the managers filed a report. The DREAH team went down to the communes to observe the challenges and make recommendations to the stakeholders (Commune, drinking water supply manager, Water Users Association).

Haute Matsiatra	The region has carried out several annual treatment cycles. A review of the tools and approaches was conducted during this QI for a regional workshop to report back on the learnings by March 2022.
Vakinakaratra	The reports of the private managers are beginning to be submitted to the DREAH.
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Private managers' reports are starting to be submitted to the DREAH. The region prepares the learning workshop, scheduled in Q2.

3. an exchange visit of STEAH from Vakinakaratra to Alaotra Mangoro,

STEAH, at the level of Vakinakaratra, began an exchange visit to Alaotra Mangoro in the commune of Moramanga and the commune of Morarano Gara, December 19 to 20, 2021. The visit allowed these STEAH to see how the different stakeholders operationalize their roles and responsibility. Thus, they could discuss the WASH-CSO and other structures in these municipalities with their counterparts. This visit allowed them to update their action plans to improve their performance and, in particular, to strengthen collaboration with local WASH-CSOs.

4. A few events helped revive the usefulness of ongoing exchange at the regional SRMO level.

The two regional sector reviews in Atsinanana and Vatovavy Fitovinany rekindled the usefulness for stakeholders in the region of an ongoing experience-sharing exercise at the SRMO level. For the Vatovavy Fitovinany region, the learning themes identified include mobilization of tax revenues dedicated to WASH, the impact of accountability mechanisms, and the actions of local consultation structures.

The organization of fairs between the commune and the private sector has allowed it to reinvigorate dialogues between the private sector and the commune. The points of interest often shared are improving relations and communications between these private operators, identifying actions to be undertaken to better engage the private sector on WASH, and sharing information on potential markets negotiable with the communes.

Activities planned for next quarter

- Continue to train and coach ministry staff to improve the sector's monitoring and evaluation system and mobilize stakeholders to ensure their respective roles in the WASH sector monitoring system;
- Organize/facilitate meetings with DREEH and SRMO to update SE&AM and to evaluate progress periodically at the regional level;
- Continue to provide technical and logistic support to the DREAH for the operationalization of STEFI in the intervention regions
- Train and coach Communes to pilot the SE&AM ICT4D platform
 - Continue to support municipalities in the transfer of data to the DREAH and ensure archiving at their level;
- Continue to facilitate learning events for the RANO WASH project on PPP and STEAH

IRI.3 Strengthened Subnational Systems

Output I.3.1 Decentralized resources available for sustained WASH service delivery

By the end of the Project, RANO WASH aims to support the DREAH and municipalities to plan and mobilize resources that incorporate private sector involvement and monitor the progress of their plans. The communes will receive supportive supervision and technical support from a strengthened DREAH (under I.3.1) and oversight from an active civil society (under I.4).

During Q1.FY22, RANO WASH continued its efforts to strengthen the building blocks of WASH systems at the regional level, including (1) strengthening the planning cycle with the preparation of the regional sectoral reviews (discussed in the output I.1.1); (2) strengthening DREAH's ability and their collaboration with the MEAH to support their respective municipalities effectively; (3) Developing a discussion platform between the private sector and municipalities through the operationalization of the "water fair" concept; (4) Strengthening the role of the *Service Régional du Budget* (regional budget office, SRB), and District in the development and approval of the primary communal budget

- (1) During Q1, 2 of 6 regions (Vatovavy Fitovinany region, Atsinanana region) implemented their regional sector reviews. The other regions rescheduled them for the beginning of this Q2 due to the time constraints with implementing the national review and the organization of the private sector fairs discussed below.
- (2) To strengthen the capacity of DREAHs to provide support to the communes: Connecteo, a service provider affiliated to Telma Madagascar, has operationalized the training of STEAH via smartphone elaborated with MEAH and DREAH. 17 STEAH out of the 120 communes targeted for this fiscal year benefited from this training. The collaboration with MEAH will result in MEAH agents as trainers for the next quarters.
- (3) The "WASH fairs"⁷ concept developed during FY21 was implemented in four regions (Vakinankaratra, Alaotra Mangoro, Atsinanana, and Amoron'i Mania). The six DREAHs accompanied their respective communes to promote business opportunities at the commune level. More details are provided in section I.3.2 and the SO2 section.
- (4) The collaboration with the regional budget service (SRM) and districts in the Atsinanana, Vatovavy Fitovinany, and Amoron'i Mania regions was a key determinant in the successful budget planning process at the commune level (presented in I.3.2). RANO WASH has thus strengthened discussions with the regional budget service (SRB) and district officers: (1) to strengthen the support provided to the communes for budget preparation, (2) to take into account the WASH sector in their training and in their advice during the search for budget balance. Contact with regional budget service (SRB) in the three other regions is underway.

Output I.3.2 Commune management capacities strengthened for WASH service delivery

To strengthen the capacity of municipalities to fulfill its mandate to provide WASH quality services, RANO WASH focused on two key points during Q1: (1) advocate and work with communes to integrate WASH into their budgets and put in place a tax revenue mobilization

⁷ The "WASH fair"^{3F} concept mobilizing regional chambers of commerce and the regional institution has been developed with MEAH to help communes mobilize private sector resources for WASH development.

strategy, (2) support communes in developing tools to market their WASH projects to the private sector.

The 2022 communal budget preparation period provided an opportunity to observe and overcome barriers to ensure communes have a budget line for WASH. As a result, 41 of our intervention communes have their preliminary budgets validated by the District before January 2022, and all of these budgets contain lines for WASH sector improvement. A good majority are waiting for District approval of the budget validated by municipal councilors. This performance in intervention communes is higher than the 16 communes with validated budgets last year for the same period.

Twenty communes have increased their WASH budgets compared to a target of 30 communes for this quarter. One of the main reasons for the decrease in WASH budgets for the remaining communes is the continued suspension of Ambatovy mining royalties and the need for realistic budgets following lessons learned in FY 2021. The following points were observed: (1) the valorization of the Local Consultation Structure to ensure transparency, participation, and inclusion in the budgeting process; (2) communes efforts to maximize available tools (PCDEAH, results of the communal reviews) and the commitments to WASH already declared in the previous budgeting exercise; (3) a better knowledge of communes to include lines for WASH activities in the budget; (4) a better practice of the budget preparation process by communes; (5) The value of support from districts and Regional Budget Services to the communes in budget preparation.

In addition to the value-added by the Regional Budget Office (SRB) collaboration to arrive at these results (presented in section 1.3.1), other factors that have enabled sincere discussions to take place during the preparation of the primary budget included the experiences of local consultation structures, the year-round debates resulting from accountability mechanisms, the existence of PCDEAHs, and the preliminary project studies available at the commune level. RANO WASH coached the communes (1) to keep in mind the different timelines for the preparation of the primary budget, (2) to ensure contacts with SRB agents, (3) to enhance the value of the structures in place such as the SLCs and WASH-CSOs, and (4) to maximize guidance given around the PCDEAH during discussions as well as the lessons learned from the accountability mechanisms

The lack of revenue to ensure the implementation of planned expenditures remains the main barrier for the Commune as well as various technical challenges (use of Excel file models shared by the administration, link between program and budget, the conflict between mayor and council, etc.). Efforts to improve tax revenues and the search for additional sources of financing, such as those from the private sector, remain one of the local solutions for the Commune to honor their commitments to the sector.

To achieve the FY22 objectives of 105 communes working with the private sector to improve WASH services, during Q1, RANO WASH accompanied 91 communes to promote their communes to investors through regional fairs. Fifty of these communes have received expressions of interest from the private sector. RANO WASH prepped the communes to highlight business opportunities to the private sector and distribute promotional sheets based on information from PCDEAHs, and pre-project studies (APDs). Further details are provided in the SO2 section of this report.

To maintain these enabling environments in our intervention communes during Q1, we continued: (1) to coach the 235 trained STEAH, (2) support 175 communes with completed PCDEAH to formalize and undertake their plans and influence other communes to begin the PCDEAH development process, (3) coach communes to implement communal reviews to

foster progressive learning processes especially through the analysis of local governance, and (4) strengthen communes' collaboration with small local private operators, including local masons.

Activities planned for next quarter

- Continue to support the SRMOs in planning, conducting meetings, and preparing data visualization/materials around specific themes, including accountability mechanisms and the promotion of private operators for the development of WASH services within each region;
- Continue to coach communes to improve and undertake their PCDEAH and to establish working relationships with the private sector to operationalize their PCDEAH (with the private companies have already expressed their interest to invest, with local operators, ...);
- Support the SRBs and Districts to assist municipalities in the preparation of their administrative accounts, and finalize the validation of the primary budgets;
- Accompany the DREAH and the District to implement actions to raise awareness, monitor, and support communes in developing access to WASH at the local level
- Continue to test a financial planning method in six communes to improve cost forecasting for the sustainability of services;
- Continue the collaboration with MEAH and the coaching of DREEH to ensure STEAH and commune capacity building;

IRI.4 Increased community control over WASH services

Output I.4.1 Commune and communities with an active civil society, aware of and organized to claim their right to water and sanitation

At the end of the Project, RANO WASH will ensure that communities serve as watchdogs for access and quality of WASH services and actively dialogue with authorities to improve WASH services. CSOs will play an important role in (1) empowering the community to demand and respect rights related to WASH and (2) engaging the Commune and WASH service providers to respond to community demands and feedback on service quality.

156 communal WASH CSOs are currently operational out of 150 targeted for Q1FY22. In the chart to the right, operational WASH-CSOs are defined as those that have reached the following phases: “4-Functional”, “5-Active,” or “6- with Quick Win”. We anticipate little to no change in the number of communal WASH-CSOs that are monitored. Instead, our strategy

is to focus our efforts on enhancing the roles of existing WASH-CSOs before seeking to create new local networks.

As an illustration of our challenges, figure 3, “WASH CSO- Status,” shows stability regarding the number of communes with operational WASH-CSOs⁸. Otherwise, the graph shows limited performance in the number of WASH-CSO producing quick wins⁹ during the period considered. However, it’s important to point out that the September 2022 results are from a 12-month observation period (FY21), while the December 2021 results are from a 3-month period (Q1). Thus, 79 communal WASH-CSOs producing quick wins in three months is already a good result. Finding the right cycle duration will be important to ensure continuity and motivation in WASH-CSO activities to reach short-term but concrete results (Quick Win). Quick win illustrations are provided in Annex 15.

To achieve these results, RANO WASH revitalized the WASH-CSO structure, including coaching to implement an annual review and develop a new action plan. It was necessary to repeat pieces of training to remind the roles and responsibilities of these structures and work with tools such as advocacy methods for the human right to water and sanitation.

One of our efforts for FY21 was to help ASUREPs (water user groups) operationalize mobilization efforts among communities served by a water supply service to demand and seek quality service delivery. We currently have 82 communes whose existing water supply services have operational ASUREPs. It is noteworthy to see an increase in the number of communes with “active” ASUREPs or “with quick wins” ASUREPs, showing that the approach used allows ASUREPs to progress towards producing concrete results in their activities. As these structures were implemented last year, the decrease of 10 out of 92 communes is reasonable for such volunteer structures.

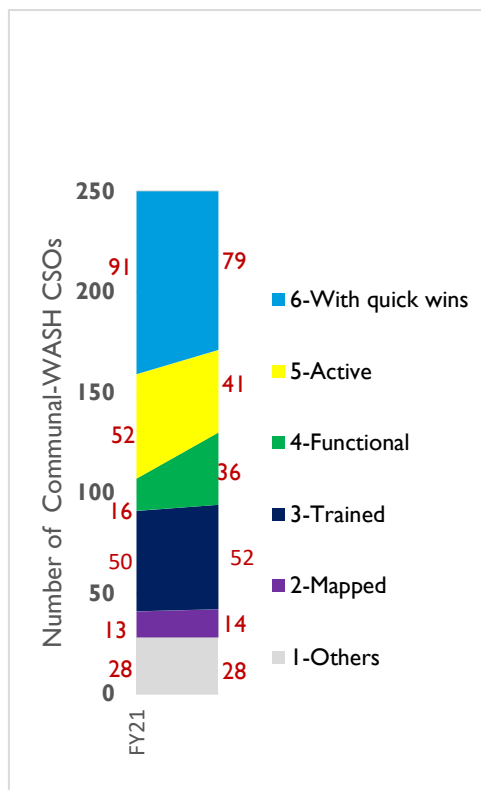


Figure 4. CSO-WASH Status From Q4FY21 to Q1FY22

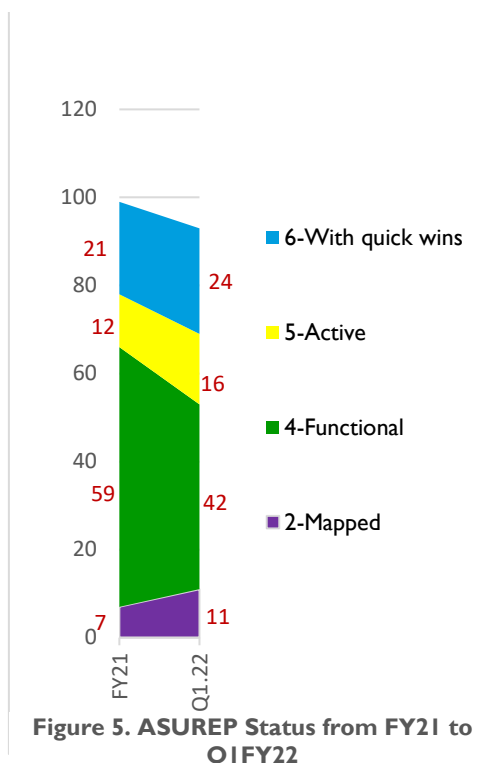


Figure 5. ASUREP Status from FY21 to Q1FY22

⁸ An operational WASH-CSO is composed of the following categories: phase 4 functional, phase 5 active, and phase 6 with quick win

⁹ A quick win is an improvement within the WASH local system as engagement of the authorities, action taken or undertaken to improve the access and quality of WASH services following the action of the WASH CSO. Some examples of quick win reached for this quarter is given in Annex 15.

Output I.4.2 Communes with functional WASH accountability mechanisms

During Q1.FY22, 105 communes had operational accountability mechanisms and 224 spaces for exchange between dynamic actors in the Commune, including communities, service providers, and authorities (SLC). The strength of local structures such as CSOs-EAH, SLCs, and ASUREPs is that these favor community feedback. Discussions at the SLC level diversify to include WASH issues such as excreta management, household waste, wastewater, and ODF areas.

The SLC is part of the accountability chain where, among other things, solutions to shared challenges can be discussed for proposal to the Commune.

According to the graph on the right, the number of operational SLCs is quite stable. 83 SLCs produced resolutions leading to concrete actions during Q3, which is generally good. But this performance is lower than in FY21. One of the explanations would be the one-year observation period for September 2021 and a three-month observation period for December 2021. The SLCs were very busy developing the primary communal budgets during this quarter. The "SLC trained" phase graph shows the effects of the training actions undertaken during the quarter. Finally, coaching actions need to be reinforced to revitalize these SLCs to produce short-term results.

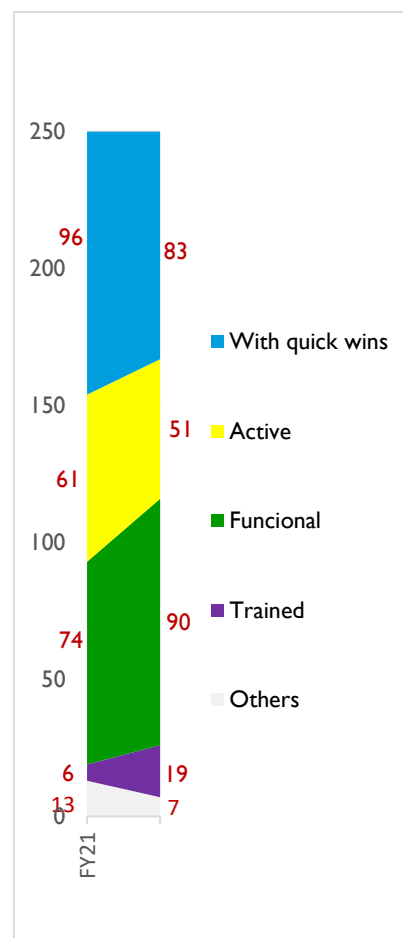


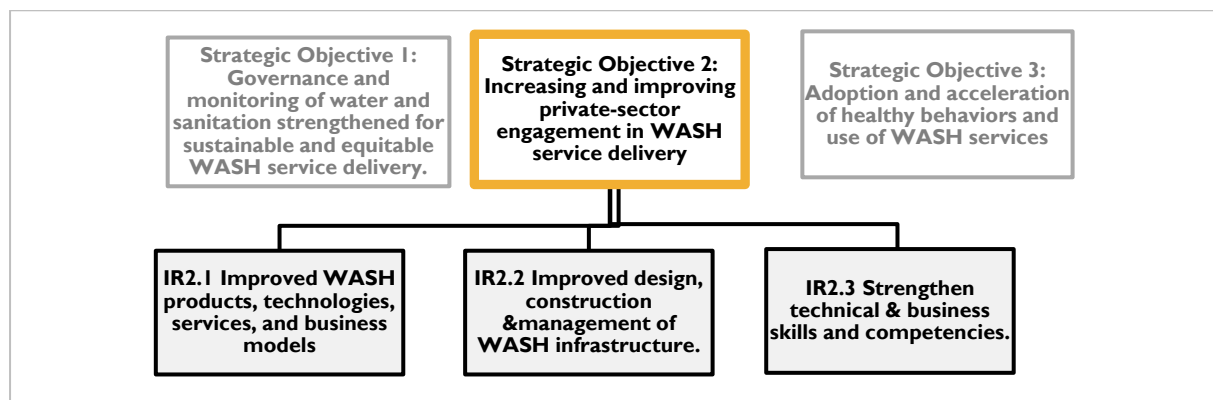
Figure 6. SLC status from Q4.FY21 to Q1.FY22

Although the progress on operational accountability mechanisms was expected to slow down in Q1 due to several activities of actors at the commune level (communal review, preparation of communal budgets, preparation of regional fairs, etc.), a more in-depth analysis of the factors that led to this score is organized for Q2. Illustrations of the quick wins obtained by the accountability mechanisms are provided in Annex 15.

Activities planned for next quarter

- Continue to Support WASH-CSO groups at the communal and regional level;
- Continue to Strengthen ASUREP as a consumer association at the level of drinking water services to ensure the protection of consumer rights;
- Supportive supervision to SLCs in facilitating public-forum discussions, documenting and analyzing community feedback, and formulating recommendations for communes, service provider and community;
- Collaborate with the District, region, MID, and DREAHs to identify processes that will strengthen the practice of accountability and effective social dialogue followed by leadership responsiveness to make progressive changes at the local level.

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



Key Achievements

- In Q1 FY21, **24,757** out of **24,414** (101%) people targeted gained access to basic drinking water services, and **1,097** out of **5,352** (20%) people targeted gained access to safely managed drinking water services, with **sales projections of 49,760 for new water users;**
- In FY21, **10,031** out of **18,383** (55%) people targeted gained access to basic sanitation, and **5,019** to a limited sanitation service out of **4,443** targeted (113%);
- **07 service providers out of 13 targeted in Q1 FY22** (54%) were issued loans for investment in WASH services, including loans from banks and VSLAs;
- **01 WSP** secured a **Ar 64 045 760** loan for investing at **100%** in a new water service;
- The DREAHS of the six regions organized **3 WASH Fairs** in Madagascar to support 91 Communes to present their water business opportunities to private investors. **50 Communes** received expressions of interest from investors to give access to water to **122,727** people.

Table 4 Summary progress toward key SO2 indicators Q1.22 Update

Key Indicators	Q1			FY22		
	Target	Actual	%	Target	Actual	%
# of WSP/ artisans/vendors issued loan products for investment in WASH systems	13	7	54%	40	7	18%
# of people gaining access to basic drinking water services	24414	24757	101%	89 122	24757	28%
# of people gaining access to safely managed drinking water services	5352	1097	20%	36 270	1097	3%
# of people gaining access to a basic sanitation service	18383	10031	55%	100 000	10031	10%
# of people gaining access to a limited sanitation service	4438	5019	113%	30 000	5019	17%

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

Output 2.1.2 Regional WASH market development plans drafted

Wash Market Development and connecting municipalities with private operators

During Q1 FY22, the Project organized three main events to connect municipalities with private operators and other actors to develop the WASH sector. The events considered the national policy and the regional technical and socio-economic specificities as well as various lessons learned from previous events. The events included:

- The Amoron'i Mania, Haute Matsiatra, and Vatovavy et Fitovinany Inter-regional Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Fair held in Ambositra on December 15 and 16, 2021;
- The Regional WASH Fair held in Toamasina on December 16 and 17, 2021;
- The Regional WASH Fair held on December 22-23, 2021, in Ambatondrazaka.

In total, 91 communes¹⁰ expressed their interest in adhering to the Public-Private Partnership concept to manage their existing water and sanitation systems and construct new drinking water systems and services. Private investors submitted 50 official expressions of interest to the communes at the end of Q1 for a potential 122,727 new drinking water users.

The main challenge will be supporting the private sector partners, which will have to adapt their structure and activities to these new services and mobilize financial resources to rehabilitate or build the water systems they will operate. Many companies have expressed

¹⁰ 19 Communes out of 91 benefited from RW APS coverage for the fokontany main towns. RANO WASH supported these Communes in carrying out a summary technical study before the WASH fairs. In addition, the Project will continue to coach the investor companies to conduct the APD according to the experiences acquired before submitting their bids to the Communes

interest in the events. Still, since unsolicited applications is a recent tender process for the WASH sector, no clear guidelines are yet available for companies interested in investing in the WASH sector beyond private water management. For this reason, RANO WASH has compiled a guideline from field experience during the pilot phases of direct unsolicited applications and spontaneous applications via fairs (Annex 22), to develop a model guide not only of the steps to be followed after the fairs but also a guide to be followed for Direct/Unsolicited Applications.

Therefore, project activities are focused on mobilizing and providing technical support to these businesses. This support involves a range of processes, from collecting as much field data as possible to ensuring that the financial analysis of investments and financial returns are as accurate as possible. This process is aligned with the application of article 54 of the Water Code (Box 5). In addition, the Project also focuses on putting companies in touch with financial institutions that can support their development in this application format.

Box 5. Water Code Articles 54 Tariffs and cost recovery

The tariff and cost recovery policy for drinking water and sanitation services must respect the following principles

- access to the public water service, whether at collective water points or individual connections, is subject to a charge
- for each water and sanitation system, the applicable tariffs must allow for the financial equilibrium of the system managers and aim at full cost recovery;
- the costs of investment and operation, on the one hand, and the users' ability to pay, on the other, are taken into account in the principles of water pricing and the setting of sanitation charges;
- the revenues collected by the project owners and managers for water and sanitation services are revenues allocated to these services only;

the tariff systems must include provisions allowing access to the universal drinking water service for domestic consumers with the lowest incomes.

WATER KIOSK PILOT UPDATE

The Project worked with the startup MANAMPY Corporation on contract content¹¹, then negotiated and supported the company to develop its action plan to implement 80 automated kiosks in the second quarter.

In the meantime, MANAMPY Corporation deployed three pilot automatic kiosks in the Commune of Anosibe Ifody to 1) test the material durability of the kiosks, 2) collect data on the ease of use by customers and especially 3) the practicality of the business model, which requires resources from the MANAMPY Corporation to continuously circulate 50 MGA coins while collecting the payments of the kiosks. Three points could be determined during this pre-test phase:

- The technical adjustments, notably on the solar power systems of the kiosks, were finalized, making the system technically functional even in case of very low sunlight;

¹¹ This agreement is a partnership between WaterAid and Manampy Corporation to finance the implementation of 80 water vending kiosks in the Alaotra Mangoro region's different water systems. These kiosks will be implemented as retail services for the current WSPs who sign in turn individual water service retailer contracts with Manampy

- Clients were initially "afraid" to use the system, but once the first users had passed, all other potential users easily used the kiosk;
- The three kiosks set up have allowed the registration of 1,420 additional water beneficiaries;
- The business model of putting coins into circulation works well but needs to be adjusted on a case-by-case basis, depending on the communes and the distance from the kiosks;
- A volume of between 1000 and 1500 liters of water per day is distributed at a kiosk, but this volume can vary depending on the location. Kiosks are more used in localities with a high population density and far from private and social connections.

The water kiosks thus represent an important potential for the populations who have improved access to the service, the managers who increase their volume sold, and the startup that ensures the distribution. The next actions of the Project are signing the contract and monitoring the activities of MANAMPY Corporation.

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

During the first quarter, seven private contractors committed a total of MGA 88,712,390 in loans (~24,000 USD).

Loans are broken down per WSPs/Investors - Builders - Managers, and local masons building latrines as follows:

- 1) WSPs received MGA 88 302 390, of which MGA 64 045 760 is an investment loan to Mickael by BOA Madagascar to finance 100% of the construction for a drinking water service in two communes where the company's unsolicited application was accepted; and
- 2) The local masons borrowed MGA 410,000 from VSLAs to finance their local construction services activities, such as purchasing supplies, equipment, and temporary reinforcement labor based on the volume of orders.

However, the investment capacity of the enterprises is not as high as in the particular case of the Mickael enterprise mentioned above. Connecting water service enterprises with financial institutions remains one of the main issues for the Project.

To this end, the Project organized in Antananarivo an introductory and networking workshop with financial institutions for six WSPs from five regions on December 10th, 2021. The workshop involved financial institutions for capital investment and guarantee funds; this in response to the Project findings in FY21 on the inability of WSPs to take out loans due to the instability of their business income, which keeps construction work as their core business.

Six WSPs, namely RPIJ, RANO AN'ALA B, ACOGEMA, LOVA VELU, 2ADH, and EC Abraham, participated in the meeting with the investment funds, comprising the Malagasy Guarantee Fund, SONAPAR¹², Solidis Capital and Solidis Garantie¹³ as well as the Malagasy Association of Capital Investors¹⁴ (AMIC). This meeting allowed the Water Service Providers, engaged in the Invest-Build Operate and Maintain PPP model, to get to know the offers/support provided by

¹² <https://www.sonapar.mg/>

¹³ <https://www.solidis.org/en/home-2/>

¹⁴ <http://www.amic.mg/>

these financial institutions and the investment funds to discover business opportunities in the WASH sector.

Following this meeting, application dossiers relating to the water systems of Mandialaza and Andaingo elaborated by RANO AN'ALA B were submitted to SUNREF¹⁵, a financial program of Solidis. SUNREF proposed a specific financial offer, representing a transition between subsidy and loan, as 20% of the requested budget could be granted as a subsidy and the remaining 80% as a loan. This loan is then accompanied by technical support for the banks and partner enterprises:

- line of credit for businesses guaranteed by SUNREF with 20% subsidy from the bank and privileged partnership conditions for financing green investments;
- Technical assistance for the companies and the banks to accompany them in :
 - The identification of investment opportunities in the targeted areas;
 - Setting up and monitoring investment projects and selecting the most suitable technologies.
 - Tailored assistance according to the size and complexity of the Project.

The financing structure proposed by SUNREF should be relatively interesting for the Investors - Builders – Managers.

Activities planned for the next quarter

- Organize a workshop to connect companies interested in spontaneous applications and ICMs with national investment funds
- Finalize the service contract for the kiosks and follow-up on service delivery, uptake and quality
- Follow up on the financial files of the companies for the rehabilitation of new systems and the campaigns of the GICs to promote water connections use
- Continued market development and monitoring of water coverage generated by coin-operated water kiosks

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)

To date, 113 APS out of the 127 targeted and 81 APD out of the 91 planned have been completed. We no longer plan to initiate new studies but rather focus our activities on valorizing the results of the studies by supporting the Communes in finding investors to implement them.

To this end, the status of the use of the results of the APDs carried out by the Project is as follows:

- Water systems built with technical and/or financial support from RANO WASH: 39
- Water systems in preparation for construction or under construction: 8

¹⁵ <https://www.solidis.org/en/sunref>

- APD reports available for investment calls: 14
- APD reports translated into investment documents and presented for investor mobilization during fairs: 12
- Reports being reviewed by Communes and/or companies to facilitate resource mobilization: 8

Annex 23 presents the detailed status of APDs completed within the Project to date.

All APS and APD documents developed by RANO WASH will be archived in the SE&AM and shared with the communes, DREAHs, and MEAH.

ESF, WQAP, AND CRM MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION

As part of the ESF validation process, the Project has established some frameworks, including feedback on implementing artificial lakes via hybrid dams (earth and ferrocement), land expropriation procedures, and compliance with health and safety policies on construction sites. Evidence of compliance with these specific activities is collected for all ongoing and completed projects to date.

To this end, for this Q1 FY22, two ESFs were approved by USAID and four ESFs were resubmitted after revisions. However, other ESFs are still being revised by the RANO WASH team. They should have been finalized in Q1.FY22, but for reasons of restitution and validation of the studies at the internal level, these study documents will be submitted no later than next quarter. (Details of the situation and the number of these ESFs are provided in Annex 30)

The follow-up of environmental compliance measures in the ESF documents is essential for the work in progress. Environmental compliance is one of the most important aspects of project implementation. It ensures that the project interventions achieve the positive, sustainable changes in human health, nutrition, and the environment that were originally intended while minimizing negative environmental impacts. Adherence to environmental compliance measures also ensures the quality and sustainability of the Project's services and the investment's security.

In addition, as part of the startup of the construction and operation of new systems in the Amoron'i Mania Region, the Project provided training on water resources management and environmental compliance during the first week of Q1.FY22. The objective of this training was to strengthen the skills of the Project's technicians and field agents, STEAH, some ASUREP members, Fokontany chiefs, work supervisors, and site managers of the companies (Commune Ivato Centre and Commune Ambatomarina).

The themes treated during this training were

- The monitoring and mitigation plan of environmental impacts;
- Monitoring and control of the execution of the works;
- Environmental measures;
- The climate risk management plan.

As in previous years, BushProof and Sandandrano continue to monitor the implementation of the environmental measures required by the ESF for each system during the construction phase. The WSP documents them as the work progresses and submits them with the compliance report at the end of the work.



Picture 1. Training of actors involved in environmental monitoring during the exploitation phase in Alaotra Mangoro

Regarding environmental compliance monitoring in the operational post-construction phase, a collective training of WSPs was also organized on November 17 and 18 in Ambatondrazaka with the participation of the PCT of RANO WASH and the Alaotra Mangoro team. The objective was to transfer the environmental compliance monitoring skills described in the ESF to communal authorities and managers of WASH services as part of the RANO WASH exit strategy. All intervention communes and five WSPs (RPIJ, Rano An 'Ala B, ACOGEMA, Lova Velu, EGC Tamby) responded to this training.

The training included a field trip to Amparafaravola and Morarano Chrome for practical application. To this end, an environmental compliance monitoring form was developed and distributed so that they could do their monitoring. (The sample monitoring form is available in the appendix of this report.)

During the first quarter, a field visit was also made to monitor and control the respect of environmental compliance measures in sites with systems set up by RANO WASH in Vakinankaratra. The mission assessed the use and implementation of an environmental monitoring form by Commune and WSP managers, ensured that all RANO WASH commitments to USAID were taken into account and implemented by the parties involved, and introduced WSPs



Picture 2. Environmental monitoring in Antsoatany, Vakinankaratra

and Communes to environmental reporting.

Regarding water quality, of the 31 water systems currently in place, 22 have been tested for water quality. Of these 22 systems tested, eight have been certified safe by the IPM, and four have been found to be safe by our sampling kits prior to custom treatment of identified anomalies. After following the protocol of immediate treatment of those with anomalies, the 14 including the 4 positive tests on kits, are all sent under surveillance to the Pasteur Institute of Madagascar for quality assurance.

After the provisional reception of the system in Androy in the Haute Matsiatra region, the project technicians made a field visit to verify the water quality using the Del'Agua portable kit with representatives of DREAH, STEAH, ASUREP, and the Mickael company. The physico-chemical analysis shows that the elements analyzed are within the norm, while the bacteriological analysis reveals the presence of fecal coliforms. The chlorine dosage injected was not sufficient to eliminate the microbes. On-the-job training was immediately done, and the results of the IPM analysis following the visit revealed an acceptable result.

Update on Construction Works and Access to Water Services

The development of drinking water systems follows a rather complex process involving many internal and external actors. Understanding this process is a real challenge, especially in understanding the involvement of private sector actors in a partnership perspective. This difference in understanding the roles and responsibilities of each partner has an impact on project implementation time.

As of Q1.FY22, 25 of the 31 water supply systems built by the project are operational.

The map of all RANO WASH water systems is available at the link below:
<https://crsorg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f5ab0aca67f44c16b5bf96fc94136d9c>

Annex 24. "Water System Construction Q1.22," summarizes the status of all construction undertaken by the project.

During the first quarter of FY22, of the 08 constructions in FY21 (Q4), 04 systems were delivered this Q1.FY22 (See Table 5). Then, the delivery of the remaining 04 systems will be scheduled for Q2FY22. Table 6 shows the 23 systems to be built for FY22, 4 of which are part of the Q4FY22 backlog. Six (06) will not be supported by RANOWASH, including two (2) sites through funds mobilized by consortium members and four (4) sites through investments mobilized during the Q1FY22 regional fairs. RANO WASH in our planning will fully support the remaining 13 sites. The system mentioned in Table 7 was delivered in Q4FY21, but the beneficiaries are not accounted for until the Pasteur Institute of Madagascar confirms the water quality. Delays are due to the complexity of negotiating and defining clear roles and responsibilities between public and private sector actors in the construction, financing, operation, and management of the systems and performance monitoring. Successfully navigating these complexities is critical to the sustainability of rural water supply systems and services, but it has required longer lead times than originally anticipated.

Ongoing disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including supply chain disruptions and competing priorities within communal governments, have also impacted construction timelines.

The status of all systems scheduled for implementation in FY22 is summarized in the table below.

Table 5. Infrastructure planned in Q4 and completed in Q1FY22

Region	List of sites	Actual status
Alaotra Mangoro	3- Morarano Chrome	Water system operational but waiting IPM water test before selling water.
Haute Matsiatra	4- Androy	Work completed; system operational. IPM water quality test already done.
Vakinankaratra	5- Antsoatany	Work completed; water system operational but waiting IPM water test before selling water.
	6- Soanindrariny	Work completed; water system operational but waiting IPM water test before selling water.

Table 6. Planned construction works for FY22

Region	Funding source	Site	Status
Alaotra Mangoro	RANO WASH cost-share (non USG)	Ambohitrarivo	APD under regional team review. Construction planned for Q2FY22. This construction will be covered by funds mobilized by RANO WASH consortium members (cost-share).
	USAID RANO WASH	Morarano Gara	Commune's institutional problem already solved. Process will resume in April 2022.
Amaron'i Mania	USAID RANO WASH	Ambatomarina	Work in progress. Technical acceptance planned for February 04, 2022.
	USAID RANO WASH	Ilaka Centre	ESF approved – Construction to begin on Q2FY22.
	USAID RANO WASH	Ivato Center	Work done; water system operational but waiting IPM water test before selling water.
Atsinanana	Non-USG investments mobilized from WASH fairs	Ambalavolo	ESF is under regional review. Construction planned for Q3FY22 and was sold in fair of wash in Atsinanana region.
	USAID RANO WASH	Ambohimiarivo	ESF is under regional team review. Construction planned for Q3FY22.
	Non-USG investments mobilized from WASH fairs	Marosampanana	ESF is under regional team review. Construction planned for Q3FY22 and was sold in fair of wash in Atsinanana region.
	USAID RANO WASH	Marovola	ESF is under PCT review. Construction planned for Q3FY22.
	Non-USG investments mobilized from WASH fairs	Tamboro	ESF is under regional team review. Construction planned for Q3FY22 and was sold in fair of wash in Atsinanana region.
	Non-USG investments mobilized from WASH fairs	Tanandava	ESF is under regional team review. Construction planned for Q3FY22 and was sold in fair of wash in Atsinanana region.
	USAID RANO WASH	Maromby	Construction planned for March 2022.
	USAID RANO WASH	Bongabe	Construction planned for March 2022
Haute Matsiatra	USAID RANO WASH	Ambalamahasoa	Work postponed to Q2FY22.
	USAID RANO WASH	Andrainjato-Ambalavao	Contract approved. Construction in progress.
	USAID RANO WASH	Andrainjato-Est	Technical acceptance is rescheduled for January 31, 2022
Vakinankaratra	USAID RANO WASH	Ambatotsipihina	ESF needs to be reviewed by PCT after USAID's feedback.

Rural Access to New Opportunities in Water, Sanitation, And Hygiene
RANO WASH FY2022 Quarter I

Region	Funding source	Site	Status
	USAID RANO WASH	Ambohimanambola	ESF resubmitted to USAID on Dec 13, 2021. Construction planned for Q2FY22.
	USAID RANO WASH	Ambohimandroso	ESF will be finalized after APD approval at regional level.
Vatovavy Fitovinany	USAID RANO WASH	Ampasimanjeva	ESF, being reviewed by the regional SO2 and PCT team from January 6, 2022. Construction scheduled for Q2FY22
	USAID RANO WASH	Mahazoarivo	ESF approved, Construction scheduled on Q2FY22.
	RANO WASH cost-share (non USG)	Namorona	ESF canceled. This project will be covered by funds mobilized by RANO WASH consortium members.
	USAID RANO WASH	Vohitrindry	Technical reception delayed for January 2022.

	Construction funded by RANO WASH
	Construction supported by funds mobilized by RANO WASH consortium members (RANO WASH cost-share).
	Construction funds by other investments mobilized from WASH fairs

Table 7. Work completed FY21 with water users not yet accounted for

Region	List of sites	Actual status
Vakinankaratra	I- Ambohitsimanova	Water system operational but waiting IPM water test before selling water. Technical reception was done on Aug 23, 2021

ACCESS TO WATER SERVICES

This quarter's main achievements in access to water are illustrated in Table 5 below.

Table 8. Access to water services (new users) FY22.QI update

Regions	Potential coverage (APD)	Total coverage to date	% Coverage	Basic drinking water services (new users)					Safely managed drinking water services (new users)					Comments and next steps
				QI			FY22		QI			FY22		
				target	actual	%	target	actual	target	actual	%	target	actual	
Alaotra Mangoro	145,899	22,181	17%	8,466	1,873	22%	33 866	1873	2265	295	13%	9067	295	The startup of the Morarano Chrome system planned in QI has been postponed to Q2, reducing the number of beneficiaries countable for QI but will be deferred to Q2.
Atsinanana	99,412	82367	79%	10000	20,637	206%	16042	20637	1000	436	44%	12332	436	Systems built in FY21 recently started their operation after water quality analysis. These systems have a high coverage rate of basic water services beneficiaries because of the strategic deployment of pipes and water points throughout the water service perimeter. Users have direct access to water points at the exploitation phase. However, this comes at the cost of a lower safely managed beneficiaries coverage rate as people already have access to water and do not necessarily feel the need for private connections.

Rural Access to New Opportunities in Water, Sanitation, And Hygiene
RANO WASH FY2022 Quarter I

Regions	Potential coverage (APD)	Total coverage to date	% Coverage	Basic drinking water services (new users)					Safely managed drinking water services (new users)					Comments and next steps
				Q1			FY22		Q1			FY22		
				target	actual	%	target	actual	target	actual	%	target	actual	
Amoron'i Mania	31 885	865	3%	600	865	144%	7130	865	-	-		3264	-	The technical support provided to the Communes and local structures to improve the quality of existing water services has yielded good results.
Haute Matsiatra	31 674	420	2%	1560	155	10%	6238	155	636	235	37%	2540	235	The water system has just been built, and connections will be installed in the coming months. The WSP-VSLA partnership in finding beneficiaries seems to be working, but the companies still need to refine their methodology.
Vakinankaratra	42 385	7268	14%	0	0		10695	0	-	-		3264	-	The Project and the WSPs have decided to provide the constructed water systems with secondary pipes to reduce connection costs. Remote households, especially the most vulnerable and remote hamlets, will be able to connect easily to the water systems. The delay in installing these secondary pipes explains the lack of results in access to drinking water for Vakinankaratra.

Rural Access to New Opportunities in Water, Sanitation, And Hygiene
RANO WASH FY2022 Quarter I

Regions	Potential coverage (APD)	Total coverage to date	% Coverage	Basic drinking water services (new users)					Safely managed drinking water services (new users)					Comments and next steps
				Q1			FY22		Q1			FY22		
				target	actual	%	target	actual	target	actual	%	target	actual	
Vatovavy Fitovinany	73 768	55718	80%	3788	1227	32%	15151	1227	1451	131	9%	5803	131	The combination of a difficult socio-cultural environment concerning payment for services and an internal difficulty for the main WSP in the region to maintain a good collection rate has resulted in a significant reduction in connection sales. At the end of Q1, the company recruited a person dedicated to solving this problem, and the development of partnerships, particularly WSP-VSLA, is being implemented.
Total	245,311	168,819		24,414	24,757	101%	55,256	24,757	5,352	1,097	20%	36,270	1,097	

Access to safe water is largely dependent on the capacity and willingness of WSPs to provide water point coverage in systems built or supported by the Project. The analysis of WSP productivity offers an interesting perspective on why the evolution of connections remains slow despite more than one year of coaching.

WSPs have a clear tendency to prefer to set up private water points over shared water points. The decision factors are mainly the unit consumption of the households but also the possibility and cost of collecting the service fee. With the current technology, shared water points are too expensive to operate. Increasing the number of private connections is thus seemingly the only financially viable option for the WSP. However, even this option must go through a phase of financial non-viability at the beginning of the campaign, because behind each connection sold, there is a direct cost for facilitating payment, but above all a very important indirect cost: the human resources that will carry out and boost the sales.

These costs are ultimately more expensive at the beginning of the campaign than collective connections considered as already unprofitable (for the same salary, a person who sells connections will have less financial return than a person who just sells water), hence the prioritization of commissions for sales that are more secure for the WSP but with a very low return. In addition, the Project's coaching focused on connecting WSPs with financial institutions, a necessary step because it will allow them to deal with direct costs related to connections (ease of payment) but which adds even more uncertainty for the WSPs because of the random aspect related to indirect costs (human resources performance management), which finally leads to a justified refusal by the WSPs to increase sales.

The conclusion would be a need to develop products or service offerings that do not affect the current productivity of the WSP (without the need to add new financial resources). Therefore, the next activities of the Project are the development of outsourced services for WSPs and a focus on operating technologies without overhead costs, such as automated water kiosks.

ACCESS TO SANITATION SERVICES

Table 9. Access to Sanitation Q1.22 Update

Regions	Q1			FY22		
	Target	Actual	%	Target	Actual	%
# of people gaining access to a basic sanitation service as a result of USG assistance						
Alaotra Mangoro	7,950	1,754	22%	32,831	1,754	5%
Atsinanana	3,500	3,533	101%	26,776	3,533	13%
Vatovavy Fitovinany	2,355	1,593	68%	2,355	1,593	68%
Vakinankaratra	1,962	537	27%	12,557	537	4%
Amoron'i Mania	1,200	2,096	175%	6,628	2,096	32%
Haute Matsiatra	1,416	518	37%	7,953	518	7%
Total	18,383	10,031	55%	89,100	10,031	11%
# of people gaining access to a limited sanitation service as a result of USG assistance						
Alaotra Mangoro	2,025	1,866	92%	8,100	1,866	23%
Atsinanana	600	490	82%	8,194	,490	6%
Vatovavy Fitovinany	1,170	1,829	156%	1,170	1,829	156%
Vakinankaratra	43	61	142%	2 463	61	2%
Amoron'i Mania	600	524	87%	3,138	524	17%
Haute Matsiatra	200	249	125%	2,435	249	10%
Total	4,438	5,019	113%	25,500	5,019	20%

In the first quarter, many communities became ODF, literally switching from open defecation to latrine use, but most of these are shared toilets, as few new structures are built. In the initial stage, the easiest option is to use existing latrines.

Access to sanitation services far exceeded the quarter's targets, especially limited services. The factors behind this success and the challenges are described in detail in Section 3.2.2.

Activities planned for the next quarter

- Reviewing the remaining APD studies;
- Processing USAID feedback on current ESFs;
- Develop and submit remaining ESFs;
- Continue work initiated by Q4.21 solicitations (after obtaining approval of corresponding ESFs);
- Start work initiated by Q1.22 tenders (after obtaining approval from the corresponding ESFs);
- Start construction of institutional infrastructure (after approval from the corresponding ESFs);
- Monitoring of environmental compliance measures and monitoring of action plans related to water quality assurance: reforestation at the watershed level;
- Provisional acceptance of the work done;
- Documenting good practices and project experiences

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

Training and coaching for small local entrepreneurs

RANO WASH continued to build the capacity of local small entrepreneurs through training, particularly in payment collection from clients, revolving capital, and business plan development. A total of 67 local masons have benefited from training activities. Thanks to the technical support of the masons and seamstresses, these small operators developed 43 business plans during this quarter.

Capacity building of water services providers for effective water coverage

In FY21, the WSP companies have acquired a technical capacity to sell and increase water connections, which has resulted in a clear trend of increasing water service users. However, these gains are limited by the financial capacity of the companies to expand water services. For Q1 FY22, the Project has worked on three main areas of intervention that are in line with the actions carried out in FY21:

a) Introducing and linking WSPs with financial guarantees to institutions and capital investment companies offering financing-accompaniment packages.

The Project conducted a workshop in 3 regions: Atsinanana, Alaotra Mangoro, and Vakinankaratra to introduce the WSPs to the principle of equity investment, how it differs from traditional loans and why this option would be beneficial to their business. As a result of this workshop, the companies have a wider range of options for implementing their water system sales and expansion campaigns through a process that is less dependent on project

and donor subsidies and more on an investment credit process with a consequent return on investment.

b) Comparison and analysis of the Project's coaching and incubation approaches with other actors and sectors working in Madagascar

Two key meetings took place in Q1 FY22 that provoked deep reflections on ways to coach private sector partners: a meeting with Nexta¹⁶, a business incubator part of the Axian Madagascar group, and a meeting with the company WeLight Africa, also a member of the Axian group¹⁷, which produces and sells electricity in rural areas in Madagascar.

Several common points were identified between the two structures and the Project, including coaching and support for the development of private companies of all sizes, marketing training and network development for companies (in the case of Nexta), and the implementation of public market services via an unsolicited application in the rural communes of Madagascar (in the case of WeLight Africa¹⁸). There were some points of reflection on the implementation method of activities at the field level, especially for implementing market services.

For example, outsourcing some services such as the management of the prepaid service, to the management company itself, notably the other companies in Axian group, allows WeLight to focus solely on the management and operation aspect of the service, which translates directly into an expansion capacity that is not limited by the company's resources. With about 15 employees, the company can cover 35 new communes per year. This situation is opposed to that of the Project, where the companies do everything in-house, limiting the coverage and extensions built by the company.

The second point is an almost total integration of the communication technology and the dematerialization of the service: all the payments are only prepaid, the management of the customer service, the follow-up of the operations... everything is done via mobile technology (mobile-money payments, partner call center, electronic management of the company...). As a result, the services operate with almost no fixed resources at the field level, only variable expenses proportional to the company's revenues. This aspect also contrasts with the Project's partner companies, which are almost totally dependent on the quality of their human resources and the management line of these resources. This main factor limits the coverage and expansion capacity of RANO WASH's partner companies.

These points are already feeding the reflections on how to accompany and strengthen the capacities of the Project's partner companies.

c) Support investors who would like to make an unsolicited application to manage systems in the RANO WASH communes of intervention.

In Q1, the Project also focused its support to companies in developing a methodology for market research and sizing of rapid returns on investment in the communes presented at the fairs. Based on the existing infrastructure, the number of current service users, and the analysis of water flows in the systems, the companies can calculate realistic future revenues and thus have an investment limit for each system to be rehabilitated and managed. Developed in the communes presented at the Vakinankaratra fair, this methodology was applied at

¹⁶ <http://nexta.mg/>

¹⁷ <https://www.axian-group.com/?lang=en>

¹⁸ <https://www.welight-africa.com>

subsequent inter-regional fairs to produce a more accurate investment document presented at the Ambositra event.

Capacity building of fecal sludge management operators

In Q1, the Project conducted a review of potential partners with sufficient expertise to analyze existing FSM services and provide coaching to service providers. Interviews were conducted with an NGO and enterprise working in the FSM field¹⁹, and terms of reference for a service support analysis and revitalization were developed. The role of the RANO WASH project will therefore be to monitor and financially support the analysis of the sector and the revitalization of an existing service through a service provider with experience in the field of FSM services. This experimented service provider will train and coach the low-performing FSM providers.

Output 2.3.2 - Development of professional associations

In Q1, the project facilitated the creation of 5 new cooperatives of small local entrepreneurs, including three (3) cooperatives of masons and two (2) cooperatives of seamstresses, for 50 entrepreneurs. The creation of the cooperatives includes the definition and legalization of the legal statutes and regulations of the cooperative but also the creation of a bank account for the cooperative. In addition to participating in the structuring and formalization of local economic actors, the groups formed can serve as a platform for credit for purchasing common production materials for the cooperative. This type of financial product is common for cooperatives in other sectors such as agricultural processing. Still, it remains one of the challenges that will need to be addressed in the coming quarters for the WASH sector.

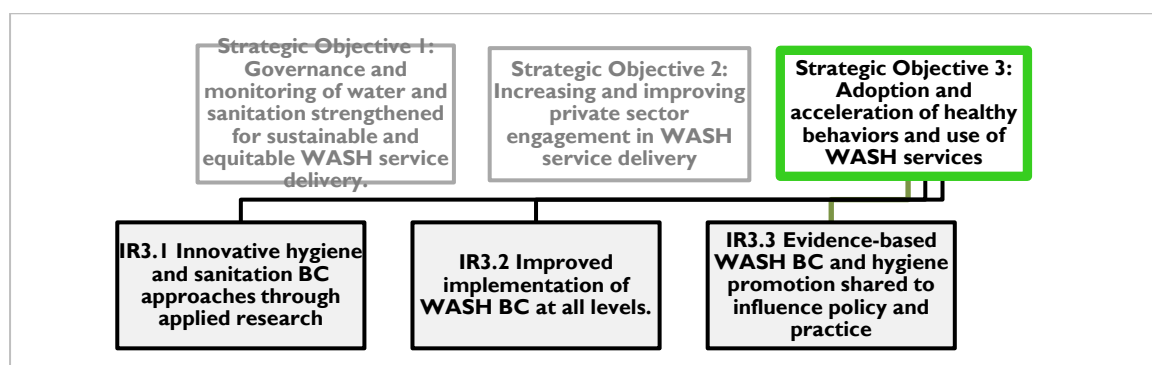
Activities planned for the next quarter

- Supporting the companies that applied for the unsolicited applications;
- Share with the WSPs the preliminary results of the testing of the automatic kiosks;
- Support WSPs in planning and implementing their campaign;
- Monitor the performance of the WSPs' human resources;
- For the FSM project, launch calls for services to potential partners, select and launch the contracting process, as well as the service;

¹⁹ The NGO is GRET with experiences in Atsinanana and Analamanga and the company is EcoDio in Haute Matsiatra. GRET has had a team providing training and coaching to service providers. And EcoDio was trained and coached by Practica. (<https://www.practica.org/sanitation/>)

RANO WASH will monitor and financially support the analysis of the FSM sector and the revitalization of an existing service through a service provider experimented in FSM services

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



Key Achievements

- **Testing and prototyping phase for Market-based sanitation model** with iDE has been successfully launched
- **310 communities** were **verified ODF** out of 267 targeted
- **7 Communes** were **certified ODF** out of 9 targeted
- **395 communities** remained **ODF** after follow-up out of 398 followed communities
- **776 out of 932 targeted VSLA members** invested in **WASH services and products**,

Table 10. Summary of Progress for Key SO3 Indicators Q1.22

Key Indicators	Q1			FY22		
	Target	Actual	%	Target	Actual	%
# of new communities verified as ODF	267	310	116%	1360	310	23%
# VSLA members investing in WASH products and services	932	776	83%	2179	776	36%
# of people gaining access to a basic sanitation service	18,383	10,031	55%	100,000	10,031	10%
# of people gaining access to a limited sanitation service	4,438	5,019	113%	30,000	5019	17%

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

Output 3.1.1: Behavioral science innovations for WASH BC solutions through applied research

For this quarter, the barrier analysis research report on the use of water and handwashing with soap was finalized.

Sanitation research with iDE

This quarter was also marked with the next phase of the market-based sanitation model development with iDE. A local team of consultants was hired to support the RANO WASH team, and they have started to analyze the existing data from the previous phase. The schedule and the design brief were developed and will guide the whole process. These documents can be consulted in Annexes 39 and 40.

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

Collaboration with environmental organizations continues, especially to implement Nde Ho Maitso activities. In Vatovavy Fitovinany, the activities initiated during the last fiscal year continued. Environmental protection activities, as well as hygiene promotion, were organized in three schools in Kianjanomby. Reforestation around the water system source was also continued during this period. This activity results from the action plan designed and implemented with the collaboration and support from the Valbio Center team and mobilized the local authorities and neighboring communities.

In Atsinanana, RANO WASH participated in the second Girl's Camp organized by Madagascar Fauna and Flora Group (MFFG) in October. During three days, students develop projects that they will implement in their schools with the support of the educational communities. For this year, 03 projects out of the 04 presented were related to WASH. These include the construction of showers to help girls better manage menstrual hygiene, latrine rehabilitation, and awareness activities on key WASH messages. The camp gathered 24 young girls of the CEG of Antetetzambara, Sahambala, Ambodiriana and Sahandahatra (Commune Ambodiriana).

Output 3.1.3: WASH–Nutrition linkages researched

For this first quarter, RANO WASH also collaborated with nutrition offices and coordinated activities within communities in WASH and nutrition. In Alaotra Mangoro, 90% of the Project's local promoters are community facilitators for ORN's FAFI project. Coordination under the leadership of the ORN and the participation of both projects (RANO WASH and FAFI) ensures that activities are integrated at the household level. These local promoters/CHVs are instructed to observe the effects of the five key behaviors promoted on the growth and malnutrition of children under five.

Activities planned for the next quarter

- Launch of the two main learning activities: learning on ODF Communes and learning on how to support public institutions to provide sustainable and inclusive WASH services for their users;
- Organize a sharing session with the MEAH team, especially on BC approaches and on research and learning results;

- Continue integration activities at the local and regional level, and implement the withdrawal process for these activities.

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

BC activities and program coordination is mainly facilitated at the regional level within the SRMO. In Amoron'i Mania, aside from the water fair preparation (reported in the SO2 section), the SRMO members also organized the certification of the Commune of Kianjandrakefina as well as the celebration of the World Toilet Day.

In Vatovavy Fitovinany, the SRMO members organized the second round of the Commune Madio contest. The first round, organized in Q4, helped the region obtain several ODF Communes. For this second round, 9 Communes (4 supported by UNICEF and five supported by RANO WASH) out of 10 were verified ODF. The Commune of Ranomafana was not verified as ODF because of instances where up to six households still share a toilet.

This was identified as a risk of recidivism, so the communities were encouraged to have familial toilets in order to meet ODF criteria. RANO WASH will need to encourage sharing sessions on how some communities overcame the space management issues, which is one factor that might prevent households from having their toilet. Indeed, in some villages where there is insufficient space between the huts to build toilets, the villagers decided to build all the toilets in a specific area.

In Atsinanana, the regional sectoral review was organized in December and offered opportunities for different actors to share their experiences and success stories. In Antananarivo, RANO WASH also participated in the national sectoral review and actively participated in the discussions on water, sanitation, hygiene promotion, and behavior change.

Output 3.2.2: Innovative CLTS and WASH BC implementation

CLTS AND SANITATION

A total of 310 communities were verified as ODF out of the 267 communities. Seven ODF Communes were certified ODF out of nine communes targeted.

As part of the project's exit strategy, the CLTS approach at the village level is now primarily carried out by the ATEAH. Thus, we note that for Q1, CLTS is still the main approach used to achieve ODF status, as the ATEAHs still focus on this approach in their effort to master it. Only two communities obtained ODF status after the GUS approach, which is also under the ATEAH guidance, and seven communities obtained it through the mobilization of communal and local authorities.

In ODF Communes, the project implemented included the behavior change package of CLTS, GUS, VSLA competitions, etc. The strengthening of governance and monitoring of the WASH sector and the involvement of structures (SLC, OSCEAH, ATEAH, Executive, etc.) in behavior change activities are among the levers that have allowed the Commune to set objectives to become an "ODF Commune." In addition, each Fokontany has developed an action plan reinforcing their commitment to an ODF commune.

We also noted a decrease in the number of people gaining access to basic sanitation services for sanitation results. This first quarter was marked with the usual challenges for sanitation

activities during this period²⁰. For the coastal regions, communities are focused on taking advantage of the vanilla and clove campaign and preparing for the end-of-year celebrations and therefore were hard to mobilize on awareness-raising activities.

In the highland region, especially in Haute Matsiatra, this quarter is marked by the lean and dry period. The search for water became a generalized concern both on the agricultural field and on the water for household consumption. This had an impact on the general performance related to these two indicators. Finally, we also updated the targets related to these indicators, and there was limited time to modify the plans to consider these new targets. The new targets will be taken into account for the next three quarters.

Table II. Number of communities verified as "open defecation free" (ODF) as a result of USG assistance Q1.22

Regions	Q1			FY22		
	Target	Actual	%	Target	Actual	%
Alaotra Mangoro	87	82	94%	261	82	31%
Amoron'i Mania	47	43	91%	187	43	23%
Atsinanana	100	108	108%	261	108	41%
Haute Matsiatra	33	47	142%	123	47	38%
Vakinankaratra	15	19	127%	176	19	11%
Vatovavy Fitovinany	11	11	100%	352	11	3%
TOTAL	267	310	116%	1360	310	23%

GROW-UP STICKER CAMPAIGN

We continued implementing the grow-up sticker campaign and currently focus on strengthening the capacity of ATEAH to accompany the local promoters in doing the behavior change activities. For the moment, the transfer to full responsibility for training and support is gradual, and the situation differs from one site to another, depending on the ATEAH's capacity for support and facilitation.

As stated in the FY2022 annual work plan, we explore creative solutions for Communes to continue this activity without RANO WASH's direct support. In December, we developed simple guidelines for Communes to help them define behavior change activities in their annual plan and consider them in their municipal budget.

The guidelines provide details on what expenses they will need to consider and the personnel to undertake the activities. Box 6 below gives the main ideas that were provided to the municipalities.

²⁰ This is a recurrent challenge since the start of the Project. during this period of the year, due to the rainy season and lack of cash in hand, making it difficult for households to construct latrines.

Box 6. Key activities that were suggested to Communes for their BC activities, to include in their plans and consider in their budget

- WASH contests (VSLA, Fokontany, villages)
- Cultural and sporting events
- Visual mapping of WASH situation to encourage competitive spirits
- Interactive meetings
- Poster and visual signs production
- Collaboration with local radios and use of social media such as Facebook
- Regular follow-up by local authorities
- Regular organization of communal clean-up
- WASH in Institutions
- Visual and desirable recognition signs for households with good WASH behavior

In February, we plan to organize a workshop review to explore and exchange further on encouraging Communes to continue their behavior change activities without direct support from the project, including the Grow-Up sticker approach.

VSLAs

Savings group investments in WASH services and products

Hygiene promotion activities continue at the savings group level. It should be noted that the WASH competition among savings groups has not yet begun, so the results we have are from routine savings group support activities. 776 VSLA members invested in WASH services and products out of 932 targeted. The total amount reported as invested in WASH services and products is AR 9,629,700 (~2,600 USD). This amount is divided between the three types of expenses: water, sanitation, and hygiene. The graphic below presents the part of each category.

Water expenditures are still limited compared to the other two types, even in sites where the project has funded drinking water systems. Despite the support and connection of private managers with savings groups, these connections have not yet been fully established. Private managers are not yet convinced of the client opportunity that savings groups offer. This fact is further confirmed by the study on the contribution of savings groups to the WASH sector that the project recently conducted (Annex 36). The organization of the next savings group competition, which will focus on increasing the number of beneficiaries of safe water through

creating new services by savings groups in partnership with private managers, seeks to address this challenge.

Currently, 137 savings groups are participating in the competition. They have been working closely with managers and the ATEAH to implement activities to expand or create new water services where communities did not already have them.

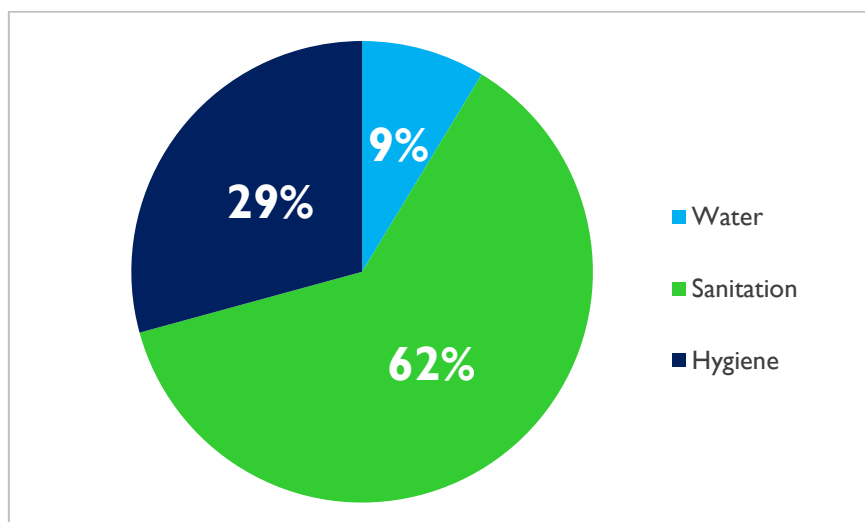


Figure 7, WASH investment made by VSLA

Financial education and securing funds for savings groups

This period was also marked by the first performance assessment of the relay agents working with the project. The relay agents are the professionals responsible for supporting the creation of savings groups. They contract with the savings groups to provide various support in exchange of agreed payment: ensuring the quality of their group, training the groups in financial education, or liaising with financial institutions when group members need it. Successful relay agents will set up and support sustainable savings group, and have their own income.

For this first quarter, 31 of the 202 intermediary agents trained and supported by the project have completed a performance assessment. This performance assessment allows them to improve their support activities for savings groups and be certified as professionals later. Of these 31 intermediary agents, 21 have achieved satisfactory results, while the rest still need to be technically strengthened to support savings groups properly and sustainably. Relay agents' performance evaluations and certification process are integral to the project's exit and sustainability activities, especially concerning support to savings groups.

Support to healthcare facilities and schools

Support to institutions has also continued during this period, emphasizing exit strategies through strengthening ownership of these services by institutional managers and their close collaboration with the Commune. RANO WASH currently supports 114 schools and 57 health centers in the six regions.

For this first quarter, 34 institutions out of the 41 planned have had access to basic drinking water services, while 57 sanitation facilities out of the 38 have been completed. The project supports these institutions in developing management plans to sustain these services and the infrastructure maintenance and operations plan. The complete list of institutions supported by RANO WASH is provided in Annex 42.

Collaboration with the Regional Directorates of Education and Public Health also continued. This collaboration is important to ensure the continuation of activities after the withdrawal of the project. Thus, in Vakinankaratra in December, a district-level meeting was held with staff from the DREAH, DRSP, and DREN. The goal was to involve these regional authorities to sustain the project's interventions within institutions in 23 communes and achieve the set objectives. An action plan was established to allow the authorities to visit the institutions within these communes and provide their technical support.

In Vatovavy Fitovinany, some Communes have already considered their contributions to improving WASH services within schools and health centers in their upcoming annual budget. However, the amount is not high for the moment. For example, in the six Communes that reported to have added institutions' expenses in their budget, the Commune of Fenomby contributes the most with 30% of the institution's total budget. This means that each institution still needs to find the remaining budget. We plan to create opportunities to share this experience to scale them up.

HYGIENE PROMOTION THROUGH MASS CAMPAIGNS, MARKETING, AND MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

Mass campaigns and events

World Handwashing with soap Day and World Toilet Day celebrations marked this quarter. RANO WASH participated at the local, regional, and national levels for both celebrations and seized opportunities to spread the key messages on WASH.

Collaboration with local radio stations

The project collaborates with local radios to broadcast audio spots and audio programs. In Alaotra Mangoro, the project continued to work with the six radio stations to broadcast 03 spots per day and one half-hour program on WASH per week.

In Vatovavy Fitovinany, radio communication activities on the promotion of key wash messages, the use of services, and, above all, respect for COVID 19 barrier actions were also maintained.

Community engagement activities

Community engagement activities have also continued, especially at sites where the project supports new water services.

In Vakinankaratra, in preparation for the WASH Marketplace in early November 2021, the teams organized community meetings in October to bring together the SLCs of the 22 communes. These community meetings were aimed to engage all stakeholders and actors to adhere to the PPP model. It is necessary to have the buy-in and support of all stakeholders to make it easier for users to accept the services provided by the private sector. The reluctance towards the private sector remains a barrier and a threat that needs to be addressed as early as possible. In Atsinanana, community meetings were organized by the DREAH Atsinanana with the support of the RANO WASH project to assess the management of water systems managed by private operators. Representatives of the ASUREP at each site concerned, local authorities at the Commune, representatives of managers, DREAH Atsinanana team, and RANO WASH team participated in these meetings. Several recommendations came out of these meetings, such as the importance of the implementation of the Nde Ho Maitso campaign with the involvement and leadership of the ATEAH or the need to materialize decisions (plaques, signs, fencing of protection perimeters, posting of communal decrees, etc.) and

protection measures for water infrastructures (including springs) so that communities can have the same level of information.

These activities are important to ensure that the water systems and PPP model are fully accepted by users and will continue to function properly even after the project withdraws.

Activities planned for the next quarter

- ODF Communes and communities activities: support, certification, and celebration
- Continue training activities on financial education and relay agents certification process
- Linkage activities with financial institutions
- Support to health centers and schools on sustainable WASH services for their users
- Community engagement 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

The WASH sector review was organized in December, and the project actively participated in the organization, technical design, and contribution to the exchanges and discussions. More details on this review are given in section SOI of this report.

RANO WASH took the opportunity to contribute its experiences and approaches in sanitation and hygiene promotion to formulate priority activities.

RANO WASH advocated scaling activities for the sanitation sub-sector, considering the Commune unit as the unit of intervention in sanitation and no longer localized interventions at the village level²¹. Other WASH partners such as USAID Access and UNICEF agreed with this mode of intervention. The MEAH team also agreed to consider this. The market-based approach for the scaling up of sanitation results was also considered during the exchanges. However, there is still some reluctance to use the market approach. RANO WASH shared the ongoing process with iDE, received with great interest and expectations.

For the hygiene sub-sector, the project was particularly interested in participating in the national campaign to promote handwashing with soap and develop a National Hygiene Code that will be the reference document for all communes.

Activities planned for the next quarter

- Sharing session with stakeholders on the results of recent research conducted on drinking water and handwashing with soap
- Sharing session on the progress of the development of the Market Based Sanitation model in partnership with iDE

²¹ Each actor will focus on approaches that achieve results at a larger scale. In terms of intervention, coordination will be improved as an actor will have to intervene on the whole Commune, not at the villages or Fokontany level. This also reinforces the role of the Commune as the project owner for sanitation activities in its territory and that it can put in place the measures it believes are necessary to end open defecation

- Sharing session with MEAH on hygiene promotion activities conducted by RANO WASH

2.2 Gender Mainstreaming

This quarter, RANO WASH Gender and Social Inclusion activities focused on review sessions and jointly define gender-sensitive indicators at SE&AM, design, and production of communication tools on gender mainstreaming through the Project, hold a national event on "Men engaged to women's empowerment in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector," participation in a virtual session organized during the African Water and Sanitation Week.

Review sessions and jointly define gender-sensitive indicators at SE&AM

To improve the management and effectiveness of the National Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Policy and ensure success in monitoring and evaluation, the MEAH proposes ensuring that the principles of results-based planning, good data management, and a single framework document for monitoring and evaluation are respected by all stakeholders. It ensures that the implementation of the Single Monitoring and Evaluation System is effective at all levels.

This quarter, RANO WASH supported the Ministry in revising the monitoring and evaluation system by collaborating with a consultant. One of the areas targeted for improvement is indicators to monitor and evaluate sector performance while providing key gender-sensitive data for program quality and a more strategic focus, ensuring equitable access to services and products throughout the nation and rational and efficient governance. Working sessions were held with the RANO WASH team and a consultant to support the Ministry in having an adapted and feasible gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation system.

RANO WASH has supported MEAH in ensuring that indicators are gender sensitive and has proposed that these be introduced. i) as a general principle, indicators related to access to services and service delivery should be disaggregated by at least by sex and age of household head and by geographic location. RANO WASH also prepared and ii) additional gender and women's empowerment indicators concerning water, sanitation, and hygiene governance. However, the improvement of indicators is ongoing, and support activities remain to be pursued.

Box 7. Examples of proposed gender sensitive indicators

Institutions level

- Number of primary, secondary, and higher education schools (with geographic location) with separate sanitation and hygiene/restroom facilities for boys and girls and teachers/staff.
- Number of primary, secondary, and higher education schools (with geographic location) with facilities to facilitate access for persons with disabilities
- Number of basic and non-basic health centers (with geographic location) with sanitation and hygiene facilities/separate toilets for men and women and staff

Women's empowerment related to water, sanitation and hygiene governance :

- Percentage of women represented in public and private WASH coordinating organizations, regional coordinating positions, and water system associations/managers or water points with geographic location
- Percentage of women who feel they have improved their sources of income through the practice of water, sanitation and hygiene-related trades with geographic location

Design and produce communication tools on gender mainstreaming and social inclusion

RANO WASH, with its partners, has designed reminder cards on gender mainstreaming and social inclusion, a communication tool to support WASH actors on relevant tips and key guides to consider throughout the interventions.

This tool will be targeted primarily at mobilizers, local promoters, and project partners at the community, district, regional, and national levels. Explanatory sessions on using this tool will be planned with its distribution. Sharing will be done in hard copy for people at the community level, and electronic versions will be shared with partners who have access to these versions. (Annex 43).

Box 8. GESI Cards - content

- The rights and duties of individuals and society in WASH
- Gender Equality for Women Empowerment
- Gender-transformative approach "male engagement for women's empowerment" and "social analysis and action"
- Tolerance-Zero for harassment, abuse, and exploitation of children with green lines for reporting
- Gender-sensitive communication and reporting



Organize a sharing session of men engaged in women's empowerment at the national level

As part of the 2021 16 Days of Activism campaign²², the Ministry of Population, Social Protection and Promotion of Women, with the support of all its partners, launched the Campaign to End Violence against Women under the theme: "Empowered woman, far from violence".

The international theme of the 2021 campaign is "Orange the World: End Violence Against Women Now!" To speak to this theme, RANO WASH has been promoting one of its gender transformative approaches: "Men's engagement for women's empowerment" for more than two years held in the field. It is an approach used to reduce gender inequalities through interactive discussions, which convey the importance of complementarity between men and women and their roles assigned by society. These discussions and re-evaluation of social and gender norms lead to the adoption of healthy behaviors in water, sanitation, and hygiene.

RANO WASH held an exchange session in Manakara from December 7-8, 2021, with 21 "men champions"²³ in the water, sanitation, and hygiene sector to share successes, lessons learned and best practices. The participants came from the six regions of intervention of the Project and exchanged with 10 women²⁴, authorities from the Ministries of Population, Social Protection and Promotion of Women, the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and representatives of the Governor of the region. The results of this exchange will be shared, and the approach will be adopted by the Ministries' partners and scaled up. (Annex 44. Men and Boys Role Models in WASH).

²² <https://16dayscampaign.org/about-the-campaign/>

²³ Men, young men: mayors, Fokontany chiefs, fathers, VSLA members, local promoters, local masons, local seamstresses, traditional leaders, village chiefs, accompanying technicians, heads of associations, members of the focal points of the Vatovavy Fitovinany region, representatives of central and regional ministries.

²⁴ They are women representatives of the Women's Associations of the regions, ministries, the Gender Focal Point Group and members of the RANO WASH team who are present as both supporters and witnesses.



Participation in a virtual session organized during the African Water and Sanitation Week

The 8th Africa Water Week²⁵ (AWW8) and the 6th AfricaSan²⁶ organized a virtual conference. Joined together as the Africa Water and Sanitation Week (AWSW), the conference convened by the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) in conjunction with the African Union Commission and organized with other development partners.

CARE and the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa²⁷ (GWPSA) and Eastern Africa (GWPEAF) organized a session at the 8th African Water Week on November 23, 2021, to bring together practitioners, researchers, and policymakers to discuss how to promote gender equality in climate-resilient water investment in Africa.

It was both an opportunity for RANO WASH to share what the Project is doing in terms of Women's agency and leadership for gender equality in WASH services in Madagascar, and also to learn what other partners in Africa are doing in terms of Promote Gender Equality in Climate Resilient Water investment in Africa. (see RANO WASH presentation in Annex 45)

Activities planned for the next quarter

- Continue review sessions and jointly define gender-sensitive indicators at SESAM
- Organize an advocacy session for women leaders in WASH at the national level
- Transfer responsibilities on gender approaches for the relay structures
- Conduct research and learning on gender activities

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

Table 12. Implementation Challenges FY22.Q1 update

Challenges	Modification / Resolution
<p>COVID-19 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 administrative offices, and prioritizing the MEAH's COVID-19 response. The Project 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</p>	<p>The COVID-19 situation has improved. The health of the team members with COVID-19 has improved, but the organizations have always asked the staff to prioritize their health above all.</p> <p>We have resumed travel with the required health measures according to each organization's protocol.</p> <p>Mobilizing MEAH staff remains a challenge as the government's priorities remain around COVID-19, and the problem of drought in the south and water security in almost all of Madagascar's major cities are the government's main concerns.</p> <p>The pace of water service providers has picked up, but the uncertainty and impacts of the crisis are still being felt,</p>

²⁵ <https://8th.africawaterweek.com/>

²⁶ <https://www.africasan.com/>

²⁷ <https://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-SouthernAfrica/>

Challenges	Modification / Resolution
<p>levels delayed several activities, such as data collection to finalize the WMDP, MEAL data collection, or equipment transport for the water systems.</p>	<p>especially in making investment decisions. And the reluctance of people to use their money for water services remains a big challenge as the economic impacts of COVID-19 are felt at the community level.</p>
<p>Quality tests. 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>In Q1, the IPM has resumed its operations to meet water quality testing needs at the regional level. The region of Vatovavy Fitovinany is still in the process of seeing with the IPM their availability.</p>	<p>IPM has resumed its normal pace, but the receipt of test results remains delayed.</p> <p>We have strengthened the monitoring and support of WSPs to ensure the treatment and monitoring of water quality. This will be a major project effort in FY22.</p>
<p>Paradigm shifts regarding private sector engagement The main challenges in engaging the private sector in providing 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, who are more familiar and comfortable with community-based approaches and 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>Water service providers are small and growing businesses. They have the technical capacity on infrastructure but lack management and marketing capacity. This gap still makes it difficult to change the thinking of all WASH actors because we still need to build the capacity of these companies. The change is not obvious because it is a long process, and the expected results require more time. However, we are aware that this is a sustainable solution.</p> <p>We continued to organize events to share and debate the challenges of private sector engagement in the WASH sector. We will continue to involve the DREAH and the MEAH at the national level in the reflections on the involvement of the private sector to influence the sector.</p> <p>We will also continue to train and coach businesses to strengthen their marketing strategy. They are beginning to implement activities according to the work plans developed together but still require close follow-up because the impacts are not immediate. The appropriate solution, such as providing materials to constitute a "revolving stock" system and easy payment strategy, is applied. The support of the companies must be a long process until they take the pace to become a real entrepreneur.</p> <p>We are also organizing various events to engage investors to mobilize resources for the WASH sector and various funding institutions to support private sector engagement for the WASH sector.</p>
<p>Monitoring social changes to promote gender and social inclusion: To monitor gender and social inclusion changes, having</p>	<p>The Social Analysis and Action approach allowed us to identify social barriers at the community level and the areas of change to be prioritized. The approach provided us with simple tools to measure change.</p>

Challenges	Modification / Resolution
<p>indicators to track social changes remains a challenge.</p>	<p>The establishment of the various mapping of the actors facilitates the reflection at the level of the teams and the stakeholders with whom we work. We will disseminate these results to stimulate discussions.</p>
<p>It is still difficult for the different actors, including project staff, to reconcile behavior change activities with the use of WASH services. The traditional conception of behavior change resulting from information and communication persists in individual and collective beliefs, sometimes making it difficult to implement more innovative strategies at different levels, whether with other development stakeholders, public institutions, and especially private sector collaboration.</p>	<p>Continued activities with iDE will help us move forward in linking behavior change with service use. We are also strengthening marketing activities with water service providers and involving more VLSAs, who are generally more receptive to adopting products and services that improve their lives. We will accompany these early adopters to influence their neighbors and relatives for the ripple effect.</p> <p>The current good results demonstrate the effectiveness of the approaches and the importance of an integrated approach. We will strengthen the sharing of lessons learned.</p>
<p>Taxe sur les Marchés Public (TMP). The introduction and roll-out of the TMP occurred after the launch of the 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 tender documents used by the Project were modified to take into account the application of TMP.</p> <p>We have increased the awareness of the companies on the rules and implications. In Q3, we organized a training for the pre-selected companies on this point.</p> <p>In FY22, we will continue the training of the new companies we are working with.</p>
<p>Transferring water services from community to private management</p> <p>The transfer of community management to private management poses several challenges. The individuals who manage the water services are the first to refuse change for fear of losing their interest even if the services are not working well. The NGOs that set up the infrastructure are also the entities that manage. And there are different types of social conflicts behind the infrastructures (water management, those who have allocated money for the infrastructure, ...). Few people and entities are familiar with the laws in place on communal project management. The transfer of management thus becomes a long process.</p>	<p>We have strengthened the inter-ministerial partnership for a common understanding of the laws and the approach adopted. We have also empowered all relevant authorities, such as the Governor of the Region, the Chief District, the Commune, and especially the MEAH and DREAH.</p> <p>We are documenting the process to serve as a tool for the sector as it is a great challenge for the water sector in Madagascar.</p>

Challenges	Modification / Resolution
<p>Resource mobilization for the WASH sector:</p> <p>Funding remains a major barrier to increasing access to services. The Project and private operators mostly fund the PPP model.</p>	<p>The Project continues to influence the public and private sectors on the added value of PPP for user-centered, inclusive, and sustainable WASH services. Capacity building of Communes on fiscal mobilization and engagement of local private operators is beginning to bear fruit.</p> <p>The Project supports DREAHs to organize events such as the water fair, meeting with stakeholders such as Chambers of Commerce and Industry, GEM/GFEM, banks, and MFIs to publicize WASH business opportunities.</p> <p>But most importantly, the Project contributes to advocate around the importance of strong government leadership for successful private sector engagement.</p>
<p>New challenges</p>	<p>Measures taken</p>
<p>Changing leads at MEAH/DREAHs: With difficult situations already (COVID-19, Madagascar's water problem) WASH sector governance faces several challenges. Frequent change at the MEAH level at the national and regional level only complicates and slows down ongoing activities.</p>	<p>The project has always tried to work with the entire team of each directorate, whether at the national or regional level, to ensure more transfer of skills to a team, but not just to the directors.</p> <p>The project has also documented the achievements with MEAH and DREAHs. One of the biggest paradigm shifts is the engagement of the private sector, the implementation of PPP tools for drinking water services. RANO WASH is developing the PPP toolkit in its website for the moment but will transfer it to public websites such as MEAH, EDBM in the next quarters to ensure continuity and make it available to all actors in the sector.</p>

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

3.1 MEAL System Update

Data Quality Assessment (DQA)

The Q1FY22 quarter was marked by the indicators review and restitution of the FY20 DQA conducted by the USAID. During the debriefing meeting, USAID team issued a draft report with actionable recommendation that informed a corrective action plan developed by RANO WASH MEAL team in consultation with program team. The key actions in the plan include the following:

- Finalization of the automatic dashboard accessible to the entire project team (including each region and the PCT team).
- Centralization of all data in the project database.
- Systematical operationalization of the data validation process (respecting the data circuit in place)
- Creation of a framework for the internal DQA by the program RANO WASH team exclusive of the MEL team (regional SO, PCT, ...) and conduct periodic internal DQA
- Improvement of supervision missions to improve data quality

- Dissemination of updated collection forms including the list of the latest versions of forms among the project team including field team in charge of data collection, etc.
- Compliance with the validation and synchronization timelines, involvement of regional technical implementation teams in data validation
- Update of some PIRS indicators: adapt according to the reality of project implementation (e.g.: system of counting beneficiaries in basic and safely managed water, counting beneficiaries of IWRM activities and others);
- Refresher training of the team on the PIRS: on the definitions and especially on the contribution of the regional team in feeding these indicators.
- Organization of a MEAL review with the MEAL team;

Revision of targets for some project performance indicators

Following the Data Quality Assessment, and in the context of a 12-month No-Cost Extension USAID recommended that, for some project indicators whose targets have already been met or close to be met before the end of the project, revised annual targets should be set for FY2022 and FY 2023. Also, it was requested to revise or update the Performance Indicator Reference Sheet to consider the reality of the field. To respond to these recommendations, the team revised the targets for each indicator to make these targets more realistic. The new targets already received USAID approval and the updated indicator table is presented as an annex of the current performance report. (Annex 6)

The MEAL team also revised the PIRS for some key indicators to align the indicator definition and calculation method to what is currently happening on the field. The new PIRS were also submitted for USAID approval.

- # of new water and sanitation services provided with RANO WASH support
- # of WSP/artisans/vendors issued loan products for investment in WASH systems
- # of people gaining access to a basic sanitation service as a result of USG assistance
- # of people gaining access to a limited sanitation service as a result of USG assistance
- # of business plans developed for offering consumer WASH products and/or services
- # of WSP/commune staff trained in improved WASH service provision
- # of communities verified as “open defecation free” (ODF) as a result of USG assistance
- # of Communes certified as "open defecation free" (ODF) as a result of USG assistance (new indicator)

3.2 MEAL Capacity Building

During the Q1FY22 period, two MEAL refresher training took place in Haute Matsiatra and Vatovavy Fitovivany regions with a total of 36 participants among who 26 men and 10 women as shown in the table below.

Regions	Men	Women	Total
Haute Matsiatra	11	3	14
Vatovavy Fitovivany	15	7	22
Total	26	10	36

Also, a workshop on learning and capitalization techniques was organized by the Alaotra Mangoro region in Ambatondrazaka to clarify the notion of learning with the regional teams and strengthen their capacities on learning processes for the capitalization activity.

Regions	Men	Women	Total
Alaotra Mangoro	9	3	12
Total	9	3	12

3.3. Baseline study in the three new regions

During the reporting period, RANO WASH finalized the baseline report for Amoron'i Mania, Haute Matsiatra and Vakinankaratra regions. The main recommendations of the baseline report include :

1. **Prioritize the construction of new infrastructures and/or rehabilitation of non-functional infrastructures.** WASH services provided in the field could not satisfy the demand due to a lack or insufficiency of water infrastructure. Furthermore, most of the infrastructures are not functional because of poor or no maintenance.
2. **Maximize the water service coverage of existing infrastructures.** Provide capacity strengthening activities, including training of water service providers on marketing strategies and sensitize community members on the use of safe water sources to increase the coverage rate of the existing infrastructures.
3. **Shift the management model from community-based to privately based management to capitalize on RANO WASH's successes in the three others region and improve WASH indicators.** Most of the water infrastructures are community managed, and the management is quite poor – which is reflected in the high number of infrastructures that are not functional. Private management requires robust accountability mechanisms and equity considerations to ensure all community members are able to access services in an equitable manner.
4. **Build the capacity of the private service providers on all the aspects of water infrastructures management (including water infrastructure maintenance, marketing, accounting and reporting, client management).** Most of the private sector engaged in the WASH sector currently are not WASH professionals but entrepreneurs with little to no WASH experience and thus require significant capacity building to grow their businesses.
5. **Build the capacity of WASH actors engaged in WASH infrastructures construction on national standards** related to construction work and the national water code.
6. **Improve collaboration and coordination between WASH actors for more synergy and increased impact** Collaboration among WASH actors is still weak. About 35.7% do not collaborate and work alone without concertation with others.

Those who collaborate see the collaboration as poor (16.7% for water supply actors, 17.8% for sanitation actors, and 22.2% for hygiene actors). The lack of collaboration can create duplication of activities.

7. **Support communes, private service providers, and community members to prioritize schools and health centers in communal WASH strategies and improve the number of institutions with quality WASH infrastructures.** Even though a certain number of institutions have access to water, hygiene, and sanitation infrastructures, the functionality rate of these infrastructures is a challenge. Also, the quality of these infrastructures was a problem as most latrines and bathrooms were not protected and did not guarantee user privacy. This situation requires supporting institutions by constructing WASH infrastructures in those that do not have them and rehabilitating those which are not functional.
8. **Support institutions and communes to construct inclusive latrines, making sure these are accessible to all, including people with disabilities.** Access to WASH infrastructure, including latrines, is not inclusive. People with disabilities could not easily access these infrastructures.
9. **Work with water services providers to build their capacity on water treatment methods and support them to put in sustainable strategies for water treatment.** The study also showed that water quality was an important issue in the three regions. Very few water systems were treated, and those treated were not done properly, exposing users to water-borne diseases.
10. **Build the capacity of women, youth, and people with disabilities so that they can be aware of the important role they could play in these management structures.** Women, youth, and people with disabilities are not well represented in the local coordination or management structures. It is also recommended to support the communes and other stakeholders so that they be more inclusive when establishing or revitalizing the local coordination and management structures.

3.4. Learning

Update of the learning plan

RANO WASH developed a learning operational plan to ease the learning component implementation. During the process, the FY22 learning plan has also been updated and some themes have been merged while others have been removed due to still insufficient data to carry out the studies. The updated operational plan is presented as an annex of the current report. (Annex 8)

Learning study on the contribution of savings groups on the WASH sector

During this quarter, RANO WASH finalized the learning study on the contribution of savings groups in the WASH sector. After collecting the latest data, the team was able to proceed with the analysis. The study aimed to know how the valorization of savings groups contributed to the achievement of the project's objectives, those related to access to water, sanitation and hygiene. (Annex 36)

The case studies on the use of water from water systems managed by private operators and the research report on handwashing with soap conducted by LSHTM have been finalized and is attached as annex 35 and 37.

Accountability to people served

RANO WASH registered overall 28 calls from beneficiaries during the reporting period with the distribution of calls per region and per month given in the graphic below.

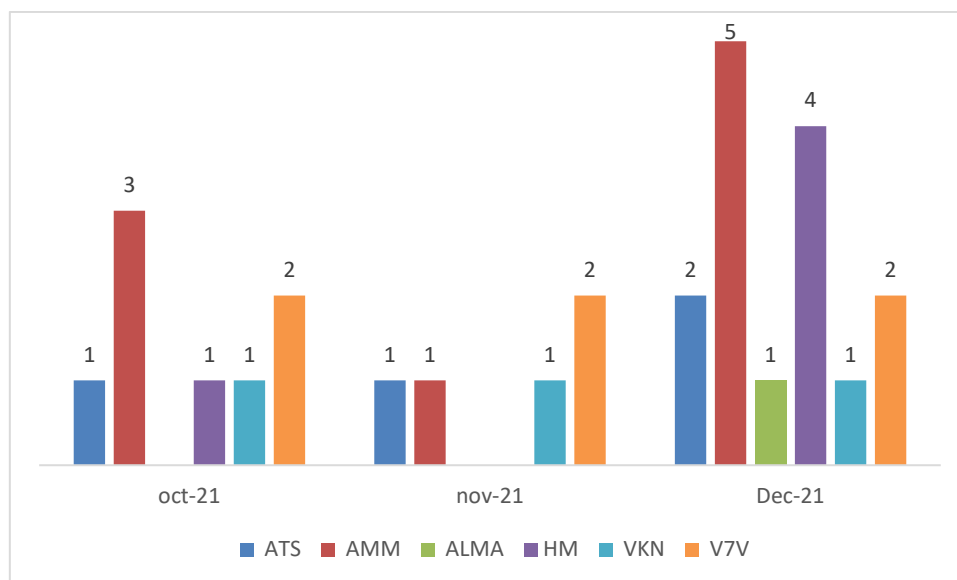


Figure 8. Evolution of the number of calls Jul-Aug-Sep 2021 per Region, CRS green line

From the 28 calls, 9 (32.1%) came from people living in Amoron'i Mania, 6 (21.4%) from Vatovavy Fitovinany, 5 (17.9%) from Haute Matsiatra, 4 (14.3%) from Atsinanana, 3 (10.7%) in Vakinankaratra and finally 1 (3.6%) in Alaotra Mangoro region.

The table below shows the problem arisen by beneficiaries during the calls.

Table 13. type of issues reported through the Green Line, Q1.FY22 update

Reason	Number of calls	%
Request for information on construction of water supply system	2	7,1%
Water cut (damaged infrastructure, low pressure)	7	25,0%
ML and PL activities (support request, compensation)	2	7,1%
Request for water point	6	21,4%
Request for information about the project and the green line	5	17,9%
Positive feedback	4	14,3%
Other	2	7,1%
Total	28	100,0%

Most of the calls were related to service interruptions and water cuts representing 25% of the calls registered during the reporting period. About 21.4% of the calls are related to questions around requesting water points in the locality.

4 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Personnel

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

- Amede Rafidimanantsoa was promoted as Private Sector engagement Advisor, succeeding to Lalaina Razanajatovo, who left the Projet in October 2021.

Management

During the reporting period, all project offices continued their activities, adapting and taking relevant sanitary measures to conduct their activities with a gradual return to in-person meetings across the consortium.

The Project continues to apply a matrix management structure to have better project management due to program implementation's technical and geographical complexities. The Project also continues adaptive management^{14F28}, drawing lessons from experience with the COVID-19 pandemic, moving to telework modality, scaling up the use of online platforms to organize webinars, online meetings, and adapting field activities to travel and health restrictions. The Project Coordination Team has finalized a consortium governance manual that compiles and documents the governance structure, key processes, and coordination arrangements established since the project start. (see Annex 11. RANO WASH Team)

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

- COP-CARE USA HQ Skype -monthly
- COP-DCOP/MEAL Programmatic and Technical Meeting – Weekly
- COP-DAF Finance/Operations Meeting – Weekly
- Project Coordination Team Meeting – Monthly
- Regional-PCT Skype Calls–Monthly
- Regional-level Team Meetings – Biweekly to Monthly
- MEAL PCT/Region/Skype – Weekly
- MEAL Review PCT/Region Meeting/Skype – Quarterly

No-Cost Extension

The request for a 12-month no-cost extension was approved by USAID in November 2021.

Coordination

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

²⁸ In the context of RANO WASH, the project is managed adaptively through a continuous learning and iterative approach. The project explores and refines ways to meet the project outcomes, based on the results of various research and assessments conducted to date, as well from the collaboration and synergies with other projects and stakeholders to inform implementation strategies.

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

Events and Visits

Some of the more noteworthy visits/events during this quarter and a summary for FY2021 (excluding those at the regional level) are presented in Annex 9.

5 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

RANO WASH's total expenditure in Q1 FY2022 is \$ 1,581,718 representing a burn rate of 73% against the forecasted accrual of \$ 2,172,999.

The overall financial performance in Q1.22 has been affected by delays in construction activities. CRS faced delays in recording an estimated expenditure of \$86k in their new support services system before the financial reports deadline. In addition, CARE Madagascar has decided to integrate and deploy a unified information and management system. The migration is scheduled for March 2022, which could delay the accounting closeout. It may impact the consolidation of the financial report for the next reporting period (Q2. FY22).

RANO WASH continues to exceed match fund requirements for the entire project lifetime, with a total contribution to date of \$3,735,756 representing 125% of \$3,000,000 per the Cooperative agreement.

RANO WASH also submitted the financial report (SF425) for this quarter to USAID, reporting a cumulative expenditure of **\$22,932,6826** and a cumulative cost-share of **\$\$3,735,756**.

Annex 4. RANO WASH Finance & Cost Share Q1.22 Update provides further details.

LIST OF ANNEXES

ANNEX 1.	RANO WASH In Pictures	I
ANNEX 2.	RANO WASH Success Stories Q1.22	30
ANNEX 3.	Communication and Media Update Q1.22	36
ANNEX 4.	RANO WASH Finance & Cost Share Q1.22	52
ANNEX 5.	Program Implementation Plan – Q1.22	60
ANNEX 6.	RANO WASH Project Performance Review Q1.22	80
ANNEX 7.	Technical Note on Estimation Method for Access to Water	87
ANNEX 8.	FY21 Learning Plan Q1.22	90
ANNEX 9.	Key Events in Q1.22	102
ANNEX 10.	List of Communes in Program Areas, by District and Region	104
ANNEX 11.	RANO WASH Team	113
ANNEX 12.	RANO WASH Training Q1.22	116
ANNEX 13.	MEAH Organizational Chart	127
ANNEX 14.	List of Regional Coordination Meetings held in Q1.22	128
ANNEX 15.	Quick Wins from the Local Structures Q1.22	133
ANNEX 16.	Communal WASH Budget Q1.22	137
ANNEX 17.	Overview of the life cycle cost tool for municipal financial planning	140
ANNEX 18.	SE&AM / Monitoring System Strengthening	143
ANNEX 19.	Summary of STEAH mobile training	148
ANNEX 20.	Key resolutions from the 2021 WASH sector review	150
ANNEX 21.	Public-Private Partnership Model for Water Services – “Build - Invest – Manage”	163
ANNEX 22.	Guidelines for spontaneous PPP applications	165
ANNEX 23.	List of WSPs, APS and APD Q1.22	172
ANNEX 24.	Water System Construction Q1.22	181
ANNEX 25.	Water Supply Systems PPP Contracts Q1.22	191
ANNEX 26.	Water Coverage Plans Q1.22	195
ANNEX 27.	Capacity Building of Water Services Providers	218
ANNEX 28.	Summary Business Plans – Small WASH Entrepreneurs	225
ANNEX 29.	Action plan following the WASH FAIRS	235
ANNEX 30.	ESF Q1. 22	239
ANNEX 31.	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Report (EMMR) Q1.22	243
ANNEX 32.	Financial Arrangements Made by WSPs for ongoing constructions Q1.22	323
ANNEX 33.	Presentation of Malagasy Association of Capital Investors	325
ANNEX 34.	Nde ho Maitso tools	332
ANNEX 35.	Case Study: Barrier Analysis for Handwashing with Soap in Madagascar	333
ANNEX 36.	Case Study: Saving Groups Contributions To the WASH Sector in Madagascar	360
ANNEX 37.	Case Study: Use of drinking water from rural water systems managed by the private sector	384
ANNEX 38.	List of Certified ODF Communes Q1.22 Update	417
ANNEX 39.	Design Brief : The Toilet Everyone Wants	419
ANNEX 40.	Market Based Sanitation: Prototyping and Testing Progress	436
ANNEX 41.	Maps of ODF Communes Vs Access to Water Q1.22	448
ANNEX 42.	Institutions supported by RANO WASH	456
ANNEX 43.	cards on gender mainstreaming in the WASH sector	464
ANNEX 44.	Men and Boys Role Models in WASH	483
ANNEX 45.	Women's Agency and Leadership for gender equality in WASH Services in Madagascar	489

RANO WASH

CARE International in Madagascar
RANO WASH Project Coordination Team

Appartement n°2,
Immeuble La City

Alarobia Morarano,
Antananarivo 101,
Madagascar