

ANNEX 1: SUCCESS STORIES

The rehab of ‘Zappy’: Community dialogue leads to impactful change

In the village of Vohilava in Mahabo Commune, a water pump nicknamed “Zappy” by the community members had not been operating properly for several years. The flow had become so slow, villagers had to spend 45 minutes filling one bucket. A local study identified three obstacles preventing the repair of the well and access to clean water: 1) the cost of repair equipment, 2) non-payment of salaries of repair technicians, and 3) unpaid debts to technicians and local suppliers.

RANO WASH conducted a Community Score Card dialogue in March 2019 related to water services and developed an action plan with community members. The plan included the revitalization of water services management committees, and updating and enforcement of water fees – 500 ariary (~0.15 USD) per month per household for permanent community members and 1,000 ariary for short-term visitors. Field agents in Mahabo and neighboring Mahasoabe Commune hired a technician to repair the pump, and in one day, the pump was returned to full functionality.

Ralimanana Jean Novin, a resident of Vohilava, expressed the gratitude of many: “The training provided by RANO WASH, particularly on the theme of municipal project management, has expanded our way of thinking. We were able to pay to repair our water point ourselves. Without the support of the project, our pump would still be broken. Now, we are happy to drink and use clean water. Women no longer have to spend time searching for water.”



Community members lend a hand with the repair of their shared water pump.

Engaging Peace Corps Volunteers in RANO WASH communities

The Public Primary School (EPP) of Ambila Lemaitso is an example of how a partnership with Peace Corps is using fun and creative methods to make life-changing improvements in healthy water, sanitation and hygiene behaviors in schools. In January 2019, the RANO WASH project recommended some fundamental changes in this community, including the installation of hand-washing stations (known as tippy-taps), covered latrines and sufficient garbage pits.

Alias, a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Andovoranto Commune, accompanied the RANO WASH project team in follow-up visits, bringing her passion for community mobilization to efforts to help the school become WASH-friendly. She led activities that got everybody in the school and wider community involved in decorating latrines and using local materials to install tippy-taps, latrine lids and garbage pits for waste management. School staff members and students were excited to contribute their artistic talents, and everyone took pride in their accomplishments.

Volunteer Alias established such a good relationship with community members, her efforts extended beyond the school WASH improvements. She mobilized members of the local village savings and loan association (VSLA) to adopt key WASH behaviors so they could become role models. Alias also encouraged community members to apply for a water connection, taking advantage of services provided by private enterprises.

Other communes in Atsinanana, including Mahatsara and Nierenana, also have Peace Corps volunteers collaborating with RANO WASH team members, especially for activities at health centers. This strong partnership between Peace Corps and RANO WASH, along with the community-level collaboration between field agents and volunteers, deepen the impact and ensure the sustainability of improvements in the communities we serve.



Alias (left), a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer, uses fun activities to make the primary school of Ambila Lemaitso WASH-friendly.

Honorine, a woman following her dream in Foulpointe

Honorine Vavisoa is a village agent who promotes and supervises village savings and loan associations (VSLAs) until they achieve self-sufficiency. In that role, she supports 32 VSLA groups. Honorine has a disability, but her dream has always been to contribute to the development of her community. Previously, she served as a community agent for CARE, and then a member of the local Disaster Risk Management Committee.

RANO WASH works with VSLA groups to mobilize them to become vehicles of behavioral change at the community level. In November 2018, three VSLA groups in Foulpointe Commune were triggered through Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). Triggering persuades community members to end open defecation, use improved latrines and practice good hygiene. After triggering, Honorine, with the support of project technicians, closely followed VSLA members to see if they honored their commitment to use hygienic latrines and showers. Honorine made home visits, gave demonstrations, and provided reminders during VSLA group meetings.



Honorine Vavisoa leads by example, installing a covered latrine and shower at her home.

In the first month after triggering, 35 latrines with showers were built and were being used. Honorine's own latrine and shower that she installed at her home served as a model in her village. Her challenge for the months ahead, she says, is to duplicate these achievements by mobilizing all the VSLAs she serves, "helping each member and their families to improve their quality of life."