

ANNEX I: RANO WASH SUCCESS STORIES

Open Defecation-Free Status Reached in Three Days



One of the latrines with a fly-proof cover. To the left of the latrine is the brick ventilation unit. (photo credit RANO WASH)

The village of Manaoianarana in Vakinankaratra region achieved Open Defecation-Free (ODF) status in just three days after a training session led by the Caritas team about Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). The goal of CLTS is for villages to take initiative in promoting sanitation and hygiene in their own communities by building and using latrines and handwashing stations. ODF status is achieved in a community when all contact between feces and humans is interrupted, everyone uses latrines and everyone in the community washes their hands at the designated handwashing stations after going to the bathroom. To initiate CLTS, Caritas uses “triggering,” which involves stimulating a collective sense of disgust in the community about open defecation by teaching about its negative aspects, such as increased risk of disease transmission, so that the community will want to stop practicing open defecation.

The villages in Manaoianarana took the messages of CLTS to heart after their triggering session with Caritas in mid-April of 2019. Before the triggering, Manaoianarana had two outside areas designated for defecation. One of them was right next to a tomb. In Madagascar, tombs are considered sacred ground to the families of those laid to rest, so it was offensive that this

area was being used for defecation. After triggering, the community decided to clean up these areas and stop using them as a toilet, achieving ODF status in just three days. The family of the person buried in this tomb was so happy that they decided to fund the building of a new public latrine. This is a testament to a community’s ability to unite and change its behavior through RANO WASH.

Now, there are eight private and two (soon to be three) public latrines, each of which is equipped with proper ventilation, a fly-proof cover, and a handwashing station in this small village of 67 people.

Two women, Sehen and Olga, are the “natural leaders” of this village, leading their community in its efforts to promote good WASH practices like latrine use and handwashing. Their efforts have been successful: community members practice proper handwashing techniques with soap and



One of the handwashing stations made from a jerry can, tubing, and wooden frame. The tubing sits vertically in a wooden notch when not in use to stop water flow. (photo credit RANO WASH)

water after using the latrines, and the community has implemented a fine for anyone who defecates outside.

Villanova University students toured Manaoianarana and saw some of the latrines and handwashing stations. The children were excited to show them how they wash their hands with soap and water, and it was clear that they were proud of themselves. They were also able to visit the newly-cleaned area where people used to defecate in the open next to the tomb, where the new community latrine will soon be built. This latrine will be open to anyone in the community for a small fee so that the family that owns the latrine will be able to afford its upkeep. This community took the values of RANO WASH to heart and were able to bring about real change in their community in an impressively short amount of time. The community members reported that they were happy with the changes because the village is now clean. Manaoianarana serves as a great example of how RANO WASH is improving the lives of people in Madagascar.

Water sanitation and hygiene-related diseases kill nearly one million people worldwide each year, and 1 in 3 people do not have access to a toilet (Water.org, 2018). This is a big problem in Madagascar, where about 58% of its citizens do not have access to safe drinking water and nearly half of all households lack access to sanitation facilities (USAID, 2019). This problem is being addressed through the USAID-funded Rural Access to New Opportunities in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (RANO WASH) project in Madagascar. The project's name also has another meaning, as in the Malagasy language, *rano* means water. RANO WASH is a five-year project (2017-2022) and is in its early stages in the Vakinankaratra region. Through the project, CARE is working closely with our partners Catholic Relief Services and a local church called Caritas to carry out a three-pronged approach: commune-level engagement, infrastructure development, and behavior change. In just a few months, this project has already seen great success.



Community members, Caritas staff, and CRS interns pose for a group photo after touring the fokontany and learning about its success. (photo credit RANO WASH)

Managing menstruation is an important step to safeguarding dignity and overall life for women

Voninera is a woman living in Kelilalina Center, in the district of Ifanadiana. She is energetic and hard-working and is an active member of two Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in her community as well as being a Leading Mother.

When RANO WASH initiated village group discussions on the topic of menstrual hygiene, Voninera was among the first VLSA members to display a strong interest in the topic. When the selection process for seamstresses to make sanitary napkins was launched in her village, her fellow VSLA members nominated her.

During the technical training, she was extremely enthusiastic and when she returned home, she sewed some sanitary napkins to show her friends.

To fulfill her first order of sanitary napkins, Voninera received a loan from one of her VSLAs. She bought fabrics from thrift stores and sewed the napkins by hand because she does not have a sewing machine. She produced and sold 36 sanitary napkins at a number of different outlets, including at the local health center.

To support the celebration of World Menstrual Hygiene Day, the project launched a call to seamstresses to produce and sell sanitary napkins during the campaign events. Voninera spent 100,000 Malagasy Ariary (approximately US \$28) to buy her materials and sold 178 sanitary napkins.

Proud of the changes happening around her, Voninera stated, *“The use of sanitary napkins is changing the lives of women here. Thanks to the sanitary napkins that we produce, women can manage their periods better.”*

Voninera continues to improve the sanitary napkins she produces, and her daughter has begun sewing as well.



Voninera sews a sanitary napkin at home with her daughter (photo credit RANO WASH)

Accessible Latrine Construction and Implementation in Madagascar



The latrine before and after the placement of the seat.
(photo credit RANO WASH)

As latrine use is becoming more prevalent in the rural areas of the country, there must be a consideration of their accessibility. Many latrines are built with small holes in the ground with no seat. This requires the user to squat down and balance while doing their business. For certain members of the community this can be hard due to circumstances such as old age, disability, or pregnancy. Also, these latrines are harder to keep clean as users may miss the hole and leave defecation on the ground of the latrine. These factors led the team to brainstorm more accessible ways to use the latrine and ensure all defecation is being sent to the hole. The solution is to build a seat that users can sit on, mimicking a toilet.

The first action is the consideration of materials. The foundation of the seat must be sturdy enough to support the body weight of the user. Next, the materials need to be able to form an ellipse to mount the seat on. Lastly, the materials need to be sustainable and not wear greatly over time. With all these considerations the materials chosen were wooden planks, a metal sheet, and plastic toilet seat.



Preparation of metal sheet to form the foundation of the seat.



Nailing the planks around the metal sheet to support a person's



Securing the funnel onto the support. Each tab was trimmed and hammered. (photo credit RANO WASH)

The first piece constructed was the outer support of the seat. The seat sits about two feet tall, similar height to a normal chair. A metal sheet was cut to the proper height of the seat using a clipper taking extra caution when cutting and shaping the metal sheet as it was very sharp along the edges. The sheet was secured into the cylinder shape by nailing the wooden planks all around the sheet.



A plank was placed on both sides of the sheet for extra support and to secure the nails. One side of the cylinder support was leveled to ensure the seat will sit flat along the ground of the latrine. As the wooden planks were nailed in there was a small gap left in between the planks so the sheet was malleable to form the proper shape. Once all wooden planks were nailed, the rugged edge of the sheet was hammered flat so that there was no danger in being cut during use.

The next piece constructed was the funnel to insert inside the seat. The funnel is important to direct the defecation into the hole. It protects the inside wooden planks from being contaminated by the defecation and can easily be rinsed. The funnel was directed towards the back of the seat with a

large slope running from the front of the seat to the back. The funnel shape was secured using a soldering technique and nailed to the wooden planks of the support. The sharp ends of the funnel were hammered down as before. The seat was nailed in the support as well to ensure it would not slip off before, during, or after use.

The final product was successful in holding the weight of all team members. The seat did not wobble and provided necessary comfort and accessibility.

Another objective of RANO WASH is behavioral changes, including washing hands. A tippy tap made of an *Eau Vive* bottle was secured to a slanted wooden beam. The cap had a hole so when the bottle is rotated a small stream is dispersed. This tippy tap, with soap, offers the CSB increased access to sanitation.

The next step was deployment in the commune for use at a CSB. The latrine seat was placed over an existing latrine in the commune of Amberobe. This location was chosen because the CSB needs an accessible latrine for people coming because of illness or pregnancy. The team will return to this commune to hear feedback on the design and operation. If it is well received, then there will be a push to create seats for the existing and new latrines within the RANO WASH project region.



**The construction team with the latrine and the woman who runs the CSB.
(photo credit RANO WASH)**

In the Savana District of Vohipeno, a very conservative village, the act of open defecation becomes taboo

The village of Savana is known for being conservative: women and girls are not allowed to wear pants or shorts and men and boys are forbidden from wearing earrings and braiding their hair.

In April 2019, RANO WASH launched a Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) intervention in the village, providing trainings and sensitizations for its high population of 192 households and 1,650 inhabitants. The CLTS triggering was successful and areas that used to be polluted by open defecation are now clean. The village agreed to use and maintain a three-compartment public latrine that had previously been abandoned. The village also agreed to build at least six shared latrines per month until each household has a latrine.

The village has since been declared open defecation-free and the traditional leader, Randriambe, proclaimed open defecation as a taboo (*fady*) similar to earrings for men and pants for women. The village also wrote the ban on open defecation on a plaque that describes the village taboos and sanctions for violating these.

As Randriambe explained, , “as the traditional authority in this village, I pledged to put an end to this shameful practice. This effort has allowed us to regain our dignity.”



Signs explaining the commune's taboos, which now include open defecation



Women wait in line to use the communal toilet in the early morning (*photo credit RANO WASH*)



RANDRIAMANDIMBISON Jean Luc

local mason in Anosibe-Ifody, I've worked as a local mason for a long time and so when I was contacted by the President of the village council, I agreed to participate in the RANO WASH training on latrine construction.

Three of us masons in the commune participated in the training. When we returned to our commune, we agreed to work together. We now showcase our products to people in front of my shop.

We also participated in community mobilization events in the surrounding villages to showcase our Dal SanPlats.

The orders began to roll in and after only two months, we sold 30 Dal SanPlats!

When the village of Antanimarina decided to eliminate open defecation, they asked us to come build their latrines with Dal SanPlat.

They said all the latrines should be Dal SanPlat. As of today, we have built 22 latrines in the village and will continue to build more in the future.

The use of the DAL SANPLAT Adopted as a social norm by Antanimarina

The village of Antanimarina in the commune of Anosibe-Ifody used to have a bad reputation due to the open defecation around the village, especially at the entrance. Everyone would talk about the bad odor when entering the village.

However, after a joint community mobilization by community agents, a technical facilitator and three local masons in Antanimarina, the village council decided to eliminate open defecation, taking a strong step towards behavior change. The village integrated the Dal SanPlat in the construction of family latrines.

The use of the Dal SanPlat thus became a social norm in Antanimarina.



Some families with their latrines in Antanimarina
(photo credit RANO WASH)