

ANNEX I: RANO WASH SUCCESS STORIES Q4.19

Together for an Open Defecation-Free Village

Efadahy Justin dit Dada is a fisherman in his forties, living in the village of Ambatomitsangana in the fokontany of Ampasimadinika Ranofotsy, a village that has already been triggered for the eradication of open defecation. However, Dada was still among those who did not use a latrine, and so the community blamed him for the fact that the village was still subject to open defecation. With a lower-limb disability, Dada was convinced that community mobilization and awareness activities were not intended for him. "I thought that because I have a disability, I was different, and so I was not concerned with the messages promoted by the local facilitators.



I couldn't believe they meant for me to change my ways. Since the beginning, I preferred to stay at home. I was not listening to the sensitizations," he explains.

However, from 2018 onwards, everything has changed for Dada. The RANO WASH project has strengthened the capacity of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Committee for the fokontany, in terms of its ability to mobilize the community and raise awareness on key WASH messages. In 2019, local promoters were also identified and trained at the Fokontany level to support households in adopting healthy behaviors, and particularly households with disabled family members. On May 8, 2019, the committee conducted community mobilization and awareness-raising activities in Dada's village to promote the use of improved latrines and handwashing with soap. This time, Dada was present at the awareness session and was shocked by the consequences of his open defecation on his entire community.

Commitment and mutual assistance

The committee, along with the village's WASH promoter made home visits to reinforce the messages communicated in the community meetings. This time, Dada agreed to receive them. "The promoters are people from my Fokontany, from my community. I trust them – they will not judge me. If after all I know now, I continue to practice open defecation, I and my community will be mocked by other villages, and it will be shameful for us," he testified.

Dada subsequently expressed his commitment to build a latrine, and asked for the support of the committee, the RANO WASH project and any community members who could help. In response, the local promoter, committee representatives, a few community members, the local mason and the RANO WASH project technician agreed to build a latrine for Dada. It took Dada 30 days to collect the local materials and tools needed to build his latrine ("falafa," wood, etc.), after which the community volunteers helped him with construction. Together, they were able to finish the construction in one day – with the local mason and WASH committee member responsible for digging the pit, and Dada and the others in charge of making and installing the walls and roof. Crucially, the mason took Dada's

disability into account when he designed the latrine, ensuring that Dada could access the space with ease. Once the latrine was complete, the team installed a handwashing device to promote good hygiene.

"Open defecation is a common problem, we must help each other," said Solo Francois, member of the WASH committee.



Wall construction



Installation of the walls with a member of the WASH Committee



Flyproof latrine

Three months later ...

Having been recognized by the community for his efforts, Dada was motivated to improve his latrine. He ordered a sanplat slab from a mason in the nearby fokontany of Savalaina to improve his latrine. He has planned further embellishments and improvements to his latrine so that it can be a model for the community. He plans to collaborate with the local mason of the commune of Ambinaninony and to learn the trade so he can help more households build their own latrines.



Improvements made by Dada



Louissette Rasoanirina, using the well she built next to her house.

"A well, water close to home, it's also a good investment when you're a member of a VSLA"

Many households in the rural commune of Ambodivoananto in the fonkontany of Amboditavolo draw the water they consume and use on a daily basis from a river far from the village. Thanks to the end-of-cycle sharing of her village savings and loan association (VSLA), Louissette Rasoanirina and her family were able to build a well near their house.

"For four years now, our VSLA has allowed us to improve our living conditions thanks to the investment opportunities it provides us. In the previous three years, my husband and I mainly invested our savings in our shop, which sells basic necessities - soap, rice, oils, etc. This year we preferred to build a well near our house. After information and discussion sessions with our savings group conducted by the RANO WASH project, we realized that building a well and having water close to home would be a very good investment. It is essential that we, especially our children, have access to drinking water," Louissette testified. In July, she invested 150,000 Malagasy Ariary (approximately US \$41) to build a well with the support of local construction workers. Following advice from the RANO WASH project teams, Louissette says that her family is careful to always either treat the well water with Sur'eau or boil it to make sure it is safe to drink.

Since 2018, the RANO WASH project has strengthened collaboration with local VSLAs, or VOAMAMI in Malagasy, which are known to promote and facilitate the adoption of healthy water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) behaviors in the community. Competitions, information sessions and various local events with the RANO WASH project have enabled group members to become role models for their community. In order to strengthen the sustainability of healthy behaviors at the household level, the project also encourages members to invest in their WASH services and products, and not only big infrastructure investments, as Louissette did, but also the various products people need on a daily basis to ensure healthy WASH behaviors, like water treatment options, soap, washable sanitary towels, etc. Louissette is one of approximately 1,600 members of VSLA groups in the three RANO WASH project intervention districts in the Atsinanana Region. Thanks to the lending and credit opportunities available through these groups, members have the ability to invest in WASH products and services when they need them.

"As president of my VOAMAMI, I have a responsibility to encourage members to improve their WASH behaviors. This is not easy because it requires changing habits and priorities of the members, and change takes time." She also sees investment in WASH as common sense and a strong financial investment. "If I waited on my community to invest in water infrastructure, the risk of disease would have been greater for me and my children. Sometimes you need to invest in order to save money: by investing in WASH now, we will end up spending less on medications and visits to the doctor. I hope that the steps I have taken for my family will positively influence the other members of my group," shared Louisette.



*Phillipine is now considered a model mother in
WASH*

New Habits for Better Living Conditions in East Ilaka

Three years ago, Phillipine, a young woman in her thirties and a former teacher, moved with her two sons to the fokontany Antanambao in the commune of East Ilaka for her work. When she arrived, she had difficulty finding a house to rent that had a latrine and a safe source of drinking water. Eventually, she settled on a house near a community well without a latrine. After she moved in, she made an agreement with a neighbor to use their latrine. She was not comfortable with these provisions, but she had no choice.

It was during a campaign led by the RANO WASH project, through the local promoter, that she found a solution in May 2019. With the approval of the owner of the house, they were able to build a latrine with a handwashing device and a shower near her home. A few weeks later, there was a promotion that reduced the cost of connecting to running water. Phillipine jumped at the opportunity. "I want my family to be healthy, so I need to ensure the quality of the water I use. This promotion came at the right time," she said. Phillipine also started using washable sanitary napkins so that she no longer has to worry about how to dispose of her sanitary napkins. "I have given myself the means to be a model of healthy WASH behaviors for my children, my students and my community. This is not an easy commitment, but it is a necessary one, in my opinion. We must support and assist each other to build a better future. Investment in WASH benefits everyone."



Aniko, in front of his 2 showers and 2 toilets (left) Aniko's pump (right).

Getting down to (WASH) business : a young entrepreneur's journey to provide water and sanitation in Foulpointe

Aniko is a young entrepreneur in Foulpointe, in the region of Atsinanana. He used to do security work before but decided to start a new business. He made a loan of 8 millions Ariary to set up his new business of managing latrines and showers on the port of Foulpointe. The Commune provided the land will soon sign a multi-year PPP contract with Aniko. "This business brings me 10,000 to 25,000 Ariary per day", added Aniko. In fact, he negotiated with Sandandrano, the water supply provider which manages the water supply system, to get a private connection to replace his traditional pump: an opportunity for Sandandrano because it gives access to clean water for the population.

He is convinced that this is a profitable business for him because of the number of people visiting the port of Foulpointe. Aniko is already thinking of setting up another shower and latrines and a water distribution point near the main pier.



The Cleanest Fokontany in the Municipality

Bongabe is a fokontany in the commune of Foulpointe, which is 8 km from the nearest city. It is the cleanest fokontany in the municipality with a very high rate of latrine ownership. RANO WASH promoters awarded eight households the “Grow Up” sticker, which is a reward for “leading households.” Households earn a sticker when they practice and sustain one of RANO-WASH’s six key behaviors.

Much of the success in Bangabe can be attributed to the active involvement of the local village savings and loan association members in the development of their communities. Their commitment will also ensure the sustainability of this progress, as they will be able to continue implementing all they have learned through RANO WASH well into the future.



Groups of women enjoying living in the clean fokontany of Bongabe

Where Hygiene Rules Become Habits



The community is engaged in using RANO WASH Handwashing device

Ranomafana East is a municipality where good hygiene has become a habit. Through the RANO WASH program, WASH friendly institutions such as Basic Health Centers have successfully raised awareness about the benefits of using clean water in the community. As a result, diseases such as diarrhea are decreasing. People in the community have learned to see these centers as a source of information about WASH and health in general, and not just a place to go after a family member falls sick.

Ranomafana East also testifies to the very active involvement of the municipality in the pursuit of good hygiene practices. In his drive to develop the municipality, the deputy mayor has engaged the full community and made water, sanitation and hygiene a top priority. In the future, he hopes Ranomafana East will attract more tourism, due to its thermal hot springs and the national park.

By investing in communal development and public health, the municipality is also investing in potential economic growth.



Local mason installing a SanPlat slab

Model Local Promotor

Akimy, a father of one from Tanambao village, is a local promotor trained by RANO WASH. Reflecting on his own personal situation and that of his village, he identified the rising water levels during the rainy season as a key public health problem. During the rainy season, latrines flood and fecal matter floats and spreads all over the village. Following the RANO WASH triggering sessions, villagers were persuaded to make financial contributions to improve latrines within 10 days. Akimy requested the help of local builders to make sanplat slabs and install them. Before long, every household had their own improved toilet, thanks to these local builders.

Akimy also organized a meeting with the local supply point to discuss how to improve water quality, since his remote, rural village has no clean drinking water infrastructure, leaving the community rely on the Matitanana River. As a result, Akimy was able to supply Sur'eau water treatment products and soaps to villagers. Now, all households supported by this local promotor treat their water to make it safe for drinking.

Kings and Accountability

When RANO WASH started working in Amboanjo in March 2018, the team found that open-air defecation was still practiced in all villages. Only 12 households had and used toilets.

Local concertation structure established suggestions box in this village in order to promote local accountability. Kings in the village of Amboanjo were so much involved in this process despite their illiteracy. In fact, traditional leaders insisted on attending the opening of these boxes so that they could see everything for themselves and participate in the resulting discussions.



The opening of the suggestions box in Amboanjo

While these traditional leaders had previously been content to simply accept decisions made by the government authorities, this time they really wanted to participate in the process.

They wanted to make sure that their citizens were allowed to fully express themselves.

On opening the suggestions box, the majority of comments made were around the need for clean drinking water. In response, the assembly decided to reinforce the systems to control and manage existing water infrastructure, so as to make sure it can be sustained well into the future.



A latrine in Vohitsivalana village, which was recently declared open defecation-free. There are now 61 households who have and use latrines.

Amboanjo has seen many projects in the past. Inter Aide, a development organization based in France, has worked in the municipality since 2003, and has been active in distributing sanplat slabs to encourage people to build improved toilets. However, few locals have participated, and it is mostly the immigrants to the area who have actually built toilets.

Since the project began, the field agent has worked closely and tirelessly with the local authorities, traditional leaders and community members to combat open-air defecation. **Since then, 13 villages have since been declared open defecation-free.**



Local builder constructing a hygienic latrine for Amboanjo Primary School.