



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SUCCESS STORY

Ambohimilamina: a village that respects the rules of hygiene



The inhabitants of Ambohimilamina, cleaning the village



Latrine built by the inhabitants of Ambohimilamina



The calm and cleanliness of the village

In the Alaotra Mangoro region of Amparafaravola district, a small village called Ambohimilamina is home to twelve households. Two years ago, the inhabitants used to go into the forest to relieve themselves. Today, the inhabitants, equipped with shovels and garbage bags, take to the village street for sanitation work every week, an initiative to sensitize the villagers to respect the rules of hygiene. Village courtyards and even latrines are visited regularly by sanitation workers.

With help from technicians of the RANO WASH program, members of the village have started to build hygiene and sanitation infrastructure such as latrines and garbage bins in the village. This initiative has succeeded in winning the commitment and involvement of the residents in the hygiene process in the village. As a result, Ambohimilamina, along with four other neighboring villages, has been declared open defecation-free.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Sabotsy Anjiro: A Very Dynamic and Mobilized Commune



A WASH friendly primary school in the commune of Sabotsy Anjiro.



Onja, a local promoter and seamstress very committed to her work

The commune of Sabotsy Anjiro in Moramanga district stands out for the dynamism and the mobilization of its inhabitants. The commune has benefited from the development of water infrastructure set up by the RANO WASH project, which is managed by a private company. The commune's success can also be attributed to the presence of various local associations and institutions that raise awareness about hygiene and sanitation within the commune. This team of committed local water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) promoters have helped the commune to remain safe and healthy.

One such committed WASH promoter is Onja, a 38-year-old tailor of washable sanitary pads, who has been living for a long time in the commune of Sabotsy Anjiro. Onja trains her neighbors about how to make and use washable sanitary pads, and as a local promoter, teaches the inhabitants of Sabot association (VSLA), which has allowed her to take loans to expand her work as a tailor. Her VSLA has also enabled her to buy a water connection for her family. She was among the first beneficiaries of the water connection provided by the RANO WASH project.

Onja is not the only VSLA member to benefit from access to drinking water in the commune. «I don't have to carry water from far away anymore because we now have infrastructure at our disposal that is adapted to our needs,» explains Salohy, a mother living in Sabotsy Anjiro who is delighted with the abundance of water in the commune.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



An inhabitant taking advantage of the drinking water.



One of the water towers in the commune

Actually 144 connections have been in the commune, including 22 social connections and 122 individual connections. In addition, the company managing the water system receives four new connection requests per week. Sabotsy Anjiro now has four water towers to ensure consistent water supply for residents, three of which have a capacity of 50 cubic meters and one of 15 cubic meters.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Two latrines with required standards of hygiene in Mangabe.

The RANO WASH project has been very fruitful in Sabotsy Anjiro commune. For example, the village of Mangabe within Sabotsy Anjiro, which consists of six households, was recently declared open defecation-free. The inhabitants of this small village are among the winning candidates of the “VSLA Modely” contest organized by RANO WASH in November 2019. There are now two latrines that meet the required standards of hygiene and sanitation in Mangabe.

In short, there are many different aspects to this wonderful commune of Sabotsy Anjiro. It is currently considered as a model commune with very committed inhabitants who help each other in the promotion of hygiene and sanitation.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Ambohimiarivo: Where a Pandemic Lead to Improved Latrine Use



One of the fly-free latrines in Ambohimiarivo

In the commune of Ambohimiarivo, in the hamlet of Ambohimena, the inhabitants have not always been aware of the benefits of cleanliness. However, mobilized by the RANO WASH project, the community has constructed their own latrines, although they do not always use them. Technicians from the RANO WASH team faced a great dilemma because the stubborn population chose not to use the latrines.

However, since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, villagers have become attentive to cleanliness. A rumor arose that the proliferation of flies were the vectors of the novel corona virus. While the rumor was not necessarily true, RANO WASH's technical assistants saw an opportunity to encourage people to use covered pit latrines.

The inhabitants reacted strongly and began to use their pit latrines and keep all areas that can attract flies clear and clean. «From this day on, our hamlet will always remain clean and it will be far from COVID-19 and other possible diseases,» explains a notable of this small village of Ambohimiarivo.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Vohidravay: A Conservative Village Achieves Open Defecation-free Status



The clean village of Vohidravay



Community meeting to set up cleanliness action plans

The village of Vohidravay, located in the Vohipeno district, used to consider itself as a «conservative» village. The inhabitants of this small village had their own customs that forbade them to «preserve defecation,» and so they used to defecate in the open air.

However, after awareness raising activities were carried out by technicians from the RANO WASH project with the support of village leaders, they succeeded in transforming these customs into good practices. Good hygiene is now at the heart of all village activities. Vohidravay has now reached the «Open Defecation Free» status. The practice of open defecation is now outdated. In fact, residents have begun to build latrines, and community meetings are held regularly in the village to keep Vohidravay clean.

Areas formerly called «open defecation areas» are now being transformed into cultivation areas. The inhabitants of Vohidravay aspire to food independence, hence the various plantations such as coffee and some fruit trees. At present, the inhabitants of Vohidravay are happy because not only does the village no longer have to import certain foods, but they also live far away from pollution.

There are now three latrines with san-plat slabs in the village. Being a quiet village, Vohidravay brings happiness to all its inhabitants – a model village in Vohipeno district.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



A Model Family Man Turned Local Promoter



Rabary, showing the sanitary pads he produces.



Rabary's house in Mahasoabe.

In the village of Mahasoabe, we meet a father with an impressive story.

Rabary was in an accident 15 years ago and was disabled. Following this accident, his wife left their home, leaving Rabary alone with his young daughter. Rabary's daughter has since grown up and reached puberty. The puberty of his daughter added to the already challenging expenses of this father. Then an idea came to him: sewing washable sanitary pads. At first, he only wanted to sew pads for his daughter, but over time he decided to produce them for the community. He was trained by the technicians of the RANO WASH project: a training that enabled him to acquire further know-how to improve the quality of the sanitary pads he produces.

Now, Rabary has a lot of customers and his orders are multiplying. «Making washable sanitary pads has become a hobby, a job, and a source of income for my family,» explains Rabary. His daughter has also taken up this profession and is very helpful to him at work. Rabary's dream is to be able to start his own business one day. We wish him much success in this vision.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Ambodicoco: A Village Ravaged by Fire Keeps on Respecting Rules of Hygiene



Ambodicoco village after the fire



This woman living in Ambodicoco is proud of living in this clean village.

Having been known for its practice of open defecation, the village of Ambodicoco achieved open defecation-free village status only recently. A large number of the population had been suffering from chronic diarrhea, which pushed the village to mobilize. After reaching open defecation-free status, the village of Ambodicoco was ravaged by a fire that the population was unable to extinguish. In spite of this, the inhabitants did not give up and continue to respect the rules of hygiene in order to keep the population in good health.

In this village, where small children gather fruits on the ground and eat them, several latrines have been set up. The villagers, despite the fire, have their heads held high and still continue to use the latrines for their needs. Drinking water infrastructure is currently under construction in this village.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



A Local Mason Proud of his Work



François with his san-plat slabs



A latrine with san-plat slab installed

François Rakotomanga, a father in his thirties, is a local mason residing in the commune of Andondabe in the region of Atsinanana. François benefited from the first wave of training of local masons provided by RANO WASH in 2018. Prior to this training, he had difficulty selling his san-plat slabs and did not have many customers. However, a close collaboration between the commune of Andondabe and RANO WASH opened doors to this local mason who is very committed and motivated by his work. This collaboration between the commune and RANO WASH enabled François to win a contract for the design of about a hundred san-plat slabs. He had to sell his slabs at a reduced price, but received financial support from the company FALY EXPORT. This campaign lasted about two months and helped François to get many customers. After this campaign, François continued to produce san-plat slabs and started to generate more customers. «I sell my san-plat slabs at a reasonable price of ARIARY 15,000 and I find my business very profitable,» says François. He does not limit himself to the production of sans-plat slabs, but also works on the marketing of this product. «The Thursday market helps me to expose these sans-plat slabs to the public, I even take orders that I produce during the week,» adds François.

François is an ambitious, dynamic and very attentive family man. He hopes to go far in his job as a local mason. helps me to expose these sans-plat slabs to the public, I even take orders that I produce during the week,» adds François.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Manapatrana Ikongo: Eager for Development



Train station in Manapatrana



The municipality of Manapatrana

We are in Manapatrana, one of the municipalities of the Ikongo district in the Vatovavy Fitovinany region. This municipality is difficult to access with almost impassable roads. And yet, Manapatrana is a model in terms of hygiene. With some impressive stories of local promoters in this municipality, hope is born among the population who refuse to sink into traditions that are obsolete.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Rasta



A towel created by Jocelyne for women who don't wear panties

Rasta, a local mason in Manapatrana, has benefited from the training provided by RANO WASH on latrine construction. As a result, he was able to build more than 80 latrines for the inhabitants of Manapatrana, a municipality that has 13 fokontany inside.

What sets Rasta apart from others is his creativity. Three kinds of latrines have been built by Rasta, each one adapted to the needs of its users. Rasta is now supported by suppliers in Fianarantsoa, which has enabled him to accept the payment terms offered by his own customers. “For me, it was a challenge to persuade people to build latrines knowing the customs and habits of the inhabitants. Now people are aware of the importance of hygiene and its benefits for everyone’s health,” says Rasta.

As a local tailor in Manapatrana, Jocelyne educates women about the use of sanitary pads. In this region where it is taboo to talk about such things, women hide during menstrual periods. In addition, most women are not used to wearing panties at all. In response, Jocelyne has started to sew and create sanitary pads for women who don't wear panties, with elastic on both ends to tie to the hips. Jocelyne has to first teach women about menstrual hygiene management to convince them to buy her sanitary pads. She sells them in schools, in public markets. The Manapatrana hospital also contributes to this sensitization because they order sanitary pads for women who give birth.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



«Being a young entrepreneur in the WASH sector is my dream»



Jinot Mickael proud of his job

Having started as a local WASH promoter in the fokontany of Marofody, Jinot Mickael Lefanambina is currently one of the three active local masons in the commune of Ambinaninony. Thanks to his services, more than 30 households in his community currently benefit from improved latrines.

In April 2019, with two other people, he became involved as a local WASH promoter in his Fokontany with the support of RANO WASH. During this commitment, he accompanied 14 volunteer households to facilitate their adoption of healthy behaviors related to WASH. Through these accompaniments, he created new demand for WASH operators in his commune. Unfortunately, when the local mason of Ambinaninony commune left, his orders related to the rehabilitation and construction of latrines of the households he accompanied were not honored. Jinot Mickael therefore decided to learn the trade so that he could lend a helping hand and subsequently support the efforts of the households.

«Reinforcing messages about using latrines to reduce and eradicate open defecation was one of my motivations when I engaged with my community as a local WASH promoter. The availability of products and services related to these messages is essential for those households to adopt these healthy behaviors,» he said.

In August 2019, he was selected and trained by the RANO WASH project to become a local mason to provide products and services related to sanitation in the 16 fokontany of Ambinaninony commune. He was now able to provide san plats to the members of the local VSLAs, whom he accompanied when he was still a local WASH promoter. He built and installed about thirty san-plat slabs (at 14,000 Ariary per unit) and constructed three improved latrines (at 40,000 Ariary per unit). After his training, he promoted his services and received many orders.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



In December 2019, he received orders for san-plat slabs from 16 households of the VSLA Tsarajoro group in the Fokontany of Vohitsara. In order to help him meet these orders, these members agreed to pay an advance on the cost of the local materials used. «My wife is also a member of a VSLA association. She has facilitated the promotion of my products to other groups and helped me gain their trust,” adds Jinot Mickael. Fulfilling these 16 orders has also helped him gain the trust of these members. And by word of mouth, other groups approached him. He now has more customers. “Thanks to the support of these VSLA groups, my business is doing well. Now clients trust me enough to rehabilitate or build their entire latrine,” he adds.

«Being a young entrepreneur in the field of WASH is my dream,” he explains. A dream for his two children, his wife, his family and his community is to live in a healthy environment without practice of open defecation. “I have a long way to go, but I believe I am on the right track,» he said, smiling.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Vinanitelo: A Mayor Committed to Implementing an Effective WASH Strategy



The mayor with his colleagues tells us about his projects.

Jean Marie Rabialahay, the Mayor of Vinanitelo is a 69- year old man who has made promotion of the WASH sector his priority during his mandate, which will continue to 2024.

«WASH is a communal priority for Vinanitelo» said Rabialahay. In order to be in good health, the population needs to drink clean water and practice good sanitation and hygiene. «Currently, we are suffering from a severe lack of clean drinking water and poor sanitation and hygiene conditions,» says the mayor. The six fokontany of the commune have no public drinking water infrastructure. People draw water from rivers and unprotected springs near the rice fields.

The vast majority of the population still practice open defecation and only those who are close to big cities have showers. “We still need to carry out major awareness-raising activities among the population to change the current situation. It is very important for us to collaborate with RANO WASH for the development of the inhabitants of Vinanitelo,” adds Rabialahay. The goal of this very-committed mayor is to ensure good health of the population. The prospecting of springs has confirmed the existence of water resources that can be exploited for the supply of drinking water to the chief town of the commune. Thus, thanks to this prospecting, the commune of Vinanitelo will benefit from the drinking water supply. This source could provide drinking water to 2,478 people located in the chief town of the commune and the 14 surrounding hamlets.