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SUCCESS STORY

Improvement of the drinking water services thanks to the WASH technician activities



In the Atsinanana region, before the RANO WASH project, the commune of Andranobolaha already had a person responsible for managing WASH infrastructure. However, due to lack of skills, he could not do his activities properly and was dismissed.

In 2019, the communal authorities were trained on their roles and responsibilities within the sector and have been tasked with empowering the commune as a project owner. The RANO WASH trainings, combined with the collective coaching for directors in the region last March, strengthened the skills of the newly designated commune-level WASH manager, Jean Maxime Lemisy, on the rehabilitation of standpipes to provide drinking water to the commune. Lemisy began by conducting an inventory of existing water points in the commune and then undertook the management and maintenance of the standpipes and established a system for collecting fees. As a result, five standpipes are in the process of being put back into operation with 451 potential beneficiaries.

Thanks to the efforts made by RANO WASH, the commune officials of Andranobolaha are now working to ensure the population's access to drinking water.



Standpipes rehabilitated through the project



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Producing washable sanitary pads as a way to empower women and engage men on gender issues



Tahinjanahary, during the training on how to sew washable sanitary pads.

Tolotriniaina Benjamin Tahinjanahary is a 22-year-old man who is passionate about sewing. Living in the rural commune of Ambalamahasoia, in Haute Matsiatra, his mother introduced him to the art of sewing in his childhood.

Currently in his final year of high school, he practices sewing during the weekends.

The training of local tailors organized by the RANO WASH project was an opportunity for him to learn about the lack of menstrual hygiene materials for women in rural areas, and as a result, decided he would begin to sew washable sanitary pads. "I have discovered that it is important to support women in respecting their menstrual hygiene," he explains.

The training on the business plan also taught him about the economic and financial potential of his products, and now he has the ambition to become a "stylist" recognized at the national level. During the month of May and June, he has already sold 15 units of washable sanitary napkins. He plans to open a point of sale in the chief town of Ambalamahasoia commune and to target the 25 churches located in his commune as well as women's associations for the sale of sanitary pads and face masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



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Commitment to a good governance and strengthening of the WASH sector



The road that crosses the town of Ambohitravivo serves as the town's sewer and the vast land next door was used as a garbage dump. A nauseating smell covers the city, especially when it is hot.

Field visits by RANO WASH, the Regional WASH Director, Mayor and beneficiaries in Ambalampany

The rural commune of Ambositra 2 is one of the 30 intervention municipalities of the RANO WASH project in the Amoron'i Mania region. It is comprised of 23 fokontany with 23,000 inhabitants. Since the taking office of Mayor, Mr. Dominique Razafindraibe has been committed to the vision of "Izay miasa no ampiana," or, "Those who work will be helped."

With the support of the RANO WASH project, changes have begun in the commune that will have long term impact, particularly in the governance, development and monitoring of the WASH sector.

The prefecture's commitment to good governance and monitoring of WASH infrastructure is evidenced by the following:

- A public commitment to a service standard that appears on publications, signage and official documents in the commune;
- The setting up of a local Structure of Consultation, composed of 13 members, according to communal decree, to work within the framework of the RANO WASH project;
- The establishment of a WASH Technical Department and the appointment of a WASH Technical Agent for the commune; and
- The request for support from RANO WASH for the development of public-private partnerships to ensure environmental protection and sustainable water resources.

Challenges remain regarding the development of the WASH Development Communal Plan, local taxation, accountability mechanisms and the partnership with technical and financial partners. However, the progress made so far is cause for celebration. RANO WASH will keep on supporting the Ambositra 2 commune in the development of WASH sector for the community.



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Working together for the cleanliness of the village



“To clean up the city, for the health and well-being of the population.” That is the target of the Ambohitrarivo commune, in the Alaotra Mangoro region. The rural commune of Ambohitrarivo was the dirtiest commune of the district because the restaurants used to use the road as both a sewer and rubbish dump. When you pass along the road that runs through the small town of Ambohitrarivo, you can smell the stench of stagnant water and garbage.

Following advocacy by the communal WASH civil society organization, officials mobilized the population and organized sanitation work in the town. Solidarity reigns in the rural commune of Ambohitrarivo, especially when it comes to the good of the population.



With the advocacy of the Communal WASH Civil Society Organization, the population was mobilized to clean up the city under the leadership of the communal authorities



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The rural commune of Andemaka, serving as a model for other communes



Community meeting in the presence of the mayor and RANO WASH technician in the main hall of the Commune of Andemaka

The operational structures put in place by the rural commune of Andemaka ensure the viability and efficiency of the drinking water system and serve as models for other municipalities in the Vohipeno district.

Andemaka is located in the south-eastern part of Madagascar, near the coast. Despite its somewhat remote geographical location, the people of Andemaka are active role models for the region, leading by example and sharing lessons learned and best practices with other municipalities and organizations. The people of Andemaka have begun taking on waste management and WASH projects to improve the cleanliness and hygiene of their commune. In addition to the installation of rubbish bins in the market, the commune has rehabilitated 13 dilapidated latrines and constructed six new basic latrines and two showers.

A new water point supplies more than 50 households, after each household contributed 2,000 Ariary for the rehabilitation. Andemaka is now seeing an increase in the number of private and group water connections. The number of villages designated open defecation-free have also multiplied. With the training given to local masons and dressmakers, improved latrines are being installed and washable sanitary towels are being distributed. The commune of Andemaka is considered a model that other communes involved in the RANO WASH project can copy.



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RANO WASH turns on the taps



Field visits in Ampamelomana to determine the causes for degradation of the drinking water supply system

In Vakinankaratra region, the communes of Ampamelomana (with its 2,087 inhabitants) and Antovontany (with its 1,633 inhabitants) have long had problems concerning drinking water supply. However, after the RANO WASH training, the local leaders decided to initiate action plans to change this.

During site visits, the RANO WASH Regional Coordinator gave explanations on the sources of degradation of gravity-fed drinking water supply systems. “It should be noted that we do not have a problem at the distribution level, but it is the sources, catchments and water circuits that are lacking due to lack of monitoring and technology,” explained the mayor of the commune.

Today, all the beneficiaries have access to water thanks to a new catchment, and the villagers can have access to drinking water every day. In order to ensure sustainability of this new drinking water system, villages have been encouraged to take responsibility for maintenance as “project managers.”



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A new WASH entrepreneur in Antsirabe



Disinfection carried out by
Établissement Fandido at a health
center in Ambatolampy

Having recently participated in the WASH Marketing Development Plan workshop organized by RANO WASH, the company called *RAS Entreprise* decided to scale up its work on the WASH sector. The company has become a significant player in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in the area, providing the population with critical WASH services.

In May 2020, *RAS Entreprise* has become *Établissement Fandido*, which produces chlorine and provides disinfection services to health centers and private establishments. It also sells handwashing devices and rehabilitates drinking water supply networks.

Établissement Fandido recently introduced bottled chlorine under the FANDIO brand, selling from two distribution points located in the Antsirabe region. "To ensure that everyone can benefit from FANDIO products, we have set up a home delivery service," adds Hery Rasamoely, manager of the *Établissement Fandido*. One liter of FANDIO bottled chlorine is sold at 1,900 Ariary.

The *Établissement Fandido* will participate in the Call for Expression of Interest of WASH operators, recently launched by the RANO WASH project.



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RANO WASH contributes in the reopening of public toilets



Monobloc equipped with public toilets and showers in Ambano

Since 2018, the rural commune of Ambano has had a “monobloc” equipped with public toilets and showers. Due to mismanagement, the municipality closed the monobloc in August 2019. As soon as RANO WASH technicians arrived in November 2019, their first action was to set up a WASH committee to improve management of the monobloc and other WASH services and infrastructure in the commune. Convinced by advocacy efforts led by RANO WASH team, on June 15, 2020, the mayor of the commune decided to contract Mrs. Justine Rasoavololona as the new manager of the monobloc, after a call for interest.

Since that time, the drinking water connection of the monobloc has been reactivated, and regulations have been determined, including the system of payment. The infrastructure is once again accessible to all the inhabitants of the fokontany of Ambano. The inhabitants of Ambano fokontany feel happy and satisfied with the reopening of this monobloc in their commune.

The use of latrines by the inhabitants also helps ensure better sanitation in the village of Ambano. RANO WASH is encouraging Mrs. Rasoavololona to provide good quality services in order to ensure public health in the area, and technicians will provide support in the event of any technical difficulties.



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With the help of Covid-19 awareness campaign, 13 households achieve open defecation free (ODF) status in Vakinankaratra



Before the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Madagascar, the community of Andalambaoka was already implementing the Community-Led Total Sanitation approach to reduce open defecation in their environment. However, results were far behind expectation and the commune was not meeting its goals.

As part of its response to COVID-19, RANO WASH conducted community awareness raising sessions and engaged households during home visits on how to use toilets and the importance of sanitation and healthy WASH behaviors as a first line of defense against COVID-19. The commune was receptive to this messaging and reacted positively.

This momentum created almost immediate change; the population was motivated to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. A total of 13 households in Andalambaoka constructed toilets with hand-washing stations and became open defecation free (ODF).

“In the future, we hope that these newly formed habits to frequently wash hands will remain as a rule of life”, added the mayor of the commune.

VSLA improves its members income through white rice collection in Vakinankaratra Region



Members collecting rice for the Tsinjoaina Operation



Tsinjo VSLA was created in January 2020 in Antoby village in Ambohidranandriana Commune. Currently, this VSLA has 12 members, 11 of whom are women. They are all active and motivated, particularly around topics on water, sanitation and hygiene.

Since the VSLA's members do not always have money to contribute to the group savings, in May 2020, CARE's technical teams explored the idea of collecting rice from each member, which members could borrow and give back in a period of one month in the place of money. This VSLA strategy has been named the "Tsinjoaina Operation." Each member provides two cups (285 grams) of white rice, or kapoaka in Malagasy, in each meeting, and in return can borrow rice from the group. If a member borrows 10 kapoaka, then they must return 11 kapoaka. Also, at the end of the cycle, the profit collected in white rice will be distributed equitably to all the members.

This system of saving with rice has proven effective. Of the seven VSLAs constituted by RANO WASH in Ambohidranandriana, six of them now practice this concept of "Tsinjoaina." In the future, this concept can be applied to covering the costs of rehabilitation of water points and construction of latrines for members.



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A Christian association as an asset for VSLA establishment



VOAMAMI SANTATRA during the meeting between members.

RANO WASH started working in the Mahatsinjo district in February 2020. After more than two awareness-raising meetings with CARE's technical teams, the people in the district remained uninterested in the idea of VSLAs. The word "loan" has a negative connotation in the community due to bad experiences with a past microfinance project. However, the team saw an opportunity to build off a Christian structure called Sokajy Fototra Kristianina (SFK), which is well accepted in the locality. This gave rise to the first VSLA, called "VOAMAMI SANTATRA," established in the Mahatsinjo fokontany, which drew members from community meetings for prayer groups and Bible discussions. With 11 members, including five men and six women, this VSLA builds on existing, socially acceptable structures that will help the community grow to accept and utilize the VSLA model moving forward.