



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SUCCESS STORIES

Very positive behavioral changes at the public school of Ambalatenina



Jonas, director of the public school in Ambalatenina



Washhouse – Public school AMBALATENINA

Jonas, director of the public school in Ambalatenina, testifies about the changes since RANO WASH.

Before the arrival of RANO WASH, Jonas maintains that there was «zero WASH infrastructure.» The students and teachers were all used to open defecation. There was no water, let alone toilets, so everyone defecated near the school. Water was a luxury because it was necessary to draw from the river nearby.

After RANO WASH, the local promoters started by mobilizing the teachers. With the various training they received, the teachers shared their knowledge with the students' parents.

Since these behavior change activities, the WASH Friendly School has built a latrine with its own resources. «We have already obtained the level I certificate out of the three levels of the WASH Friendly School,» says the director.

The project has brought many benefits. It was not easy to change the behavior of 273 students. However, the teachers and students worked hard to change their habits gradually. They got used to drinking unsafe water, but since the new infrastructure, drinking water is flowing in the public school of Ambalatenina.

The director even reveals that the absence rates have declined because the students are getting sick less and less since the arrival of drinking water. «Our life here has really changed; we have had the chance to experience another reality thanks to the RANO WASH project,» concludes Director Jonas.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SUCCESS STORIES

AMBATOFOTSY, a commune favored by RANOWASH



Infrastructure in Ambatofotsy (connection and tank)



An aerial view of the village of Ambatofotsy



RANDRIAMBELO Marcel Romuald, Mayor of Ambatofotsy Ikongo

The commune of Ambatofotsy, in Vatovavy Fitovinany region is particularly privileged. If a commune is supposed to host a single infrastructure, Ambatofotsy has three, according to Randriambeho Marcellin Romuald, Mayor of the commune in the district of Ikongo.

«We are truly grateful to the RANO WASH project because the vision is now realized: to provide households with drinking water while laying WASH infrastructure. The technicians of RANO WASH have constantly supported and mobilized us, even in the most remote villages,» declares the Mayor of Ambatofotsy.

The locals have always been thirsty for change, which is reflected in the number of households that install private connections. According to the Mayor, about 80% of households in the three fokontany in collaboration with RANO WASH now have access to drinking water.

To date, the commune has even introduced a system of «Dina,» and the commune has just published an order prohibiting open defecation. Any household that does not have a latrine is liable to a fine (Dina). The commune also has a follow-up system with each household. They monitor who just installed a latrine and check whether it is used or whether the households continue their bad practices.

The commune has received material from RANO WASH such as hand-washing devices, hydro-alcohol gels, soap, sprayers, and other disinfectants to strengthen the fight against the spread of coronavirus and for barrier measure application. «We kindly ask you to follow all our efforts to achieve the vision of the President of the Republic to promote universal access to drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene. «The Mayor hopes to collaborate further with RANO WASH and guarantees that the commune of Ambatofotsy is working tirelessly for the adoption of healthier habits.

Actions led by:





USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SUCCESS STORIES

Commune of Andemaka, the testimony of a proud mayor



Antenaina Césaire Gaëtan, Mayor of Andemaka

Covering 65 km² with 32,000 inhabitants, Mayor Antenaina Césaire Gaëtan was ashamed because the inhabitants regularly defecated in the main alleys leading to his commune.

Fortunately, open defecation in Andemaka has decreased significantly since the collaboration with RANO WASH.

The project has conducted numerous behavior change activities. The Mayor attests: «We are now much more aware of the importance of hygiene and its health benefits. The whole commune has benefited from training and awareness-raising on access to drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene by RANO WASH.»

There had already been some infrastructure and drilling in the past, but these former projects failed due to a lack of management. The inhabitants started to divert pipes and even steal the already installed solar panels.

With the arrival of RANO WASH, all the infrastructure has been renewed. And since January 2020, the population has regular access to drinking water. There have never been any disconnection problems, and there is no risk that the population will steal the materials again. There is little chance of this happening because the locals have been well trained in the sustainable management of the infrastructure.



Infrastructure in Andemaka

Actions led by:





USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SUCCESS STORIES

Andemaka, a CSB II model that prioritizes hygiene



Ramanantena Solo Claire Léonie, nurse and Head of CSB II in Andemaka



Two children washing their hands in the CSB II compound

Ramanantena Solo Claire Léonie, nurse, Head of CSB II in Andemaka, receives about twenty pregnant women per month. She joined the CSB after the arrival of RANO WASH in the commune. She admits that before, there was not too little infrastructure. There were no standards, and visitors had little respect for hygiene.

Now, we early inform future mothers of their pregnancies. It is common to talk about WASH, cleanliness of the food, the environment, and especially personal hygiene. After delivery, the same topics are reiterated to maintain cleanliness and hygiene.

«Hygiene is the source of health,» continues the nurse. With the RANO WASH project, the local promoter invites pregnant women to use washable sanitary pads. These products not only respect intimate hygiene, but they are also safe.

In terms of infrastructure, the CSB has drinking water and water connections both inside and outside. Garbage bins are installed in every corner. There are two latrines, a shower, a safe pit, and some hand washing devices at the exit of the toilets and just at the entrance of the CSB.

«The biggest benefit was hygiene. The training from RANO WASH significantly improved our lives, and the changes are concrete,» declares Ramanantena Solo Claire Léonie.

Actions led by :





USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SUCCESS STORIES

Thanks to RANOWASH, the inhabitants of SAVANA, a commune in Vohipeno have changed their bad habits



Célimine, the local seamstress of Savana



Aerial view of the commune of Savana, Vohipeno district

With the habits and customs, it was particularly difficult to talk about menstrual hygiene in the commune of Savana. Thanks to the behavior change activities provided by RANO WASH, the efforts of the support technicians and ATEAH have been successful. The women and the community have gradually become familiar with menstrual hygiene management.

«We did another training with RANO WASH in Andemaka, and the benefits were many. The women are now more open to using washable sanitary pads. My work is going well. To this day, I can't even tell you exactly how many washable sanitary pads I've managed to sell,» outlines Celmine.

In this context, Celmine, after having followed training in Antsirabe, became a local seamstress. She already knew how to sew towels but was able to strengthen her skills further thanks to the training provided by RANO WASH.

Pregnant women are her main clients. «Due to lack of funds, women in the village used to take rags as sanitary napkins,» reveals Celmine. RANO WASH has helped the community to adopt healthier practices.

Celmine sells her washable sanitary pads at 1500 Ar each. With the many orders she received, she guarantees that her work has always been profitable. Concretely, she delivers the sanitary napkins she has made to the CSB of Savana, and the doctors help her sell her products.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SUCCESS STORIES

Notable governance and well adapted hygiene strategies



RANDRIAMAPIKAMBANA Solofo Xavier,
Deputy Mayor of the commune of Lokomby
Manakara

According to the first deputy mayor Randriamampikambana Solofo Xavier, Lokomby was among the most anachronistic communes of Manakara. Open defecation was common practice, and the infrastructure in WASH remained absent.

It was in 2018 that RANO WASH began its collaboration with the commune. Numerous behavior change activities were conducted, and the Lokomby town hall began by mobilizing volunteers to clean its seven fokontany. Training to achieve the WASH Friendly School goals began with the public school, and then it was passed on to the CEG and high school.

«Difficulties in changing behaviors persisted,» reports the deputy mayor. «It was not easy to talk about defecation or washable sanitary pads in the Tranobe (Great house). However, with the well-adapted strategies of the RANO WASH team, it was a great success,» according to Solofo Xavier.

To do this, the leaders began to approach the «Ampanjaka» (Village Leader) to transmit the importance of hygiene. Today, it is no longer taboo in Lokomby to talk openly about latrines or menstrual hygiene because it is public health that is at stake.

It is the «Ampanjaka» or the «Ndrenony» who are the first responsible for the cleanliness in the fokontany. It is only when complications occur that the commune or the gendarmes intervene. Thanks to the collaboration with RANO WASH, the inhabitants of Lokomby have now adopted a healthier mentality and behavior.

Actions led by :





USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SUCCESS STORIES

Dorine and Dorentia, a winning duo for the washable sanitary napkin production in Lokomby Manakara



Dorine, single mother, disabled, became a local seamstress in Lokomby



Dorine, and her daughter Dorentia

Dorine is a local seamstress in Lokomby. As a single mother, her work allows her to educate her four children, all attending school with the Catholic Sisters. She proudly shares that her only daughter, Dorentia, has just passed her high school diploma.

«I have been able to enjoy many benefits since I started working with RANO WASH,» maintains Dorine. She has always sewn dresses, clothes, or pillows. At the very beginning, she was apprehensive about working with RANO WASH because she has difficulties with paperwork and other formalities.

Her parents made a living from handicrafts and sewing, and she has not known any other reality. «When I am not sewing, I am weaving,» she says. A local promoter gave her a model of a washable sanitary napkin, and she reproduced it identically. That is why she managed to join the RANO WASH training and became a local seamstress.

«I went to Amboanjo, then to Marofarihy. I already received many orders because we had to do several sensitizations in high schools, at the Catholic Sisters, at public schools, or even at the commune,» she remembers.

Today, she passes on her art to her daughter Dorentia. It was a choice because even her daughter finds that one can live well from it, especially as she wants to continue her studies. With her handicap, Dorine limits her movements, and it is her daughter who ensures everything. «If there are small accessories that I need, it is Dorentia who buys them in Manakara. It is also Dorentia, 17 years old, who delivers the orders, continues Dorine.

The high school girls are the ones who place the most orders at Dorine's, especially as the new school year approaches. She earns an average of 50,000 Ariary per month from these orders. «It has helped me a lot. I was using another machine before, and since I could not repair it, I had to stop sewing for six months; I can't tell you the difficulties I had then. Fortunately, RANO WASH gave me another machine.

Actions led by :

