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## SUCCESS STORY

### Testimony of a Village Agent who contributed to the development of a whole community...



**RAFANJAMALALA JEANNE ARLETTE is a village agent in the commune of Andrainjato Ambalavao, Haute Matsiatra region.**

Her role is to create village savings and credit associations (VSLA). She chose this job because she is convinced that mobilizing a small group of people to work together and support each other could change the world. In her case, the adoption of behavioral changes leads to progress and would allow the development of her community.

She has been able to create 25 savings and loan groups since she decided to take on this task one year ago. Founder of a village savings and loan association

«I walked several kilometers under the sun from Fokontany to Fokontany» she said. The difficulty would not make me give up the opportunity to contribute to the development of my commune.

The RANO WASH project launched the National VSLA group competition at the beginning of the year, which consisted in increasing the number of beneficiaries with drinking water.

Arlette convinced 10 VSLA groups to participate in this contest, which gave her the title of Relay Agent. Only one of them could finish to the end, the Association FIVOARANTSOA.

She established with them an action plan to win this contest, to create the maximum of particular connections by making sensitizations door to door, to create private meetings of information or animations during the days

of the market, and to build collective water points. 2 have been created which generated 800 beneficiaries. The FIVOARANTSOA group mobilized 1,800,000 ar between them to enable the realization of their action plan.

It was not easy. Walking several kilometers a day without eating except for green mangoes found on the road, hard knocks, sunburns, were their daily life during the few months of the contest.

**RASAMIMANGA MARCELLE, municipal councillor of the commune of Andrainjato and member of the group VOAMAMI FIVOARANTSOA actively participated in the contest**

Sensitizing a household was not easy,» he said. We had to come back 2 or 3 times to convince them. We take them quickly to the manager so that they don't change their mind.



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Thanks to Arlette's encouragement, the support of the commune of Andrainjato and their determination, the FIVOARANTSOA group came 2nd in the National VSLA competition and 1st in the Haute Matsiatra region by creating 3,482 beneficiaries with drinking water.

Arlette's efforts were rewarded by a motorcycle offered by the RANO WASH project as the best relay agent and she became the head of the agency of the company MICKAEL also, the manager of the new drinking water system in Andrainjato Ambalavao, since recently.

The perseverance of a few people can contribute to the development of a whole commune, why not of a whole country.

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