

RANO WASH

RURAL ACCESS TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE



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FY2023 Quarterly Report

I January to 31 March 2023

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FRONT PICTURE: Angeline, a young girl living in Antoabe, took advantage of the availability of water in the back yard of her house in Andonabe Commune, Vatovavy region (Photo credit: RANO WASH)

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AMIC.	Association Malagasy des Investisseurs en Capital (Malagasy Association of Capital Investors)
APS	Avant-Projet Sommaire (Technical Scoping Study)
APD	Avant-Projet Détaillé (Detailed Project Design)
AO	Agreement Officer
AOPDEM	Association des Opérateurs Producteurs et Distributeurs d'Eau à Madagascar (Association of Water Producers and Distributors in Madagascar)
AOR	Agreement Officer Representative
ASUREP	Association des Usagers des Réseaux d'adduction en Eau Potable (Water Users Association)
ATEAH	Agent Technique de l'Eau, Assainissement et l'Hygiène (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Technical Officer)
BC	Behavior Change
BCD	Behavior-centered Design
BNGRC	Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et Catastrophes (National Bureau of Disaster Risk Management)
BPOC	Budget Programme par Objectif Communal (Communal Program Budget per Objective)
BPON	Budget Programme par Objectif National (National Program Budget per Objective)
BPOR	Budget Programme par Objectif et Région (Regional Program Budget per Objective)
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere Inc.
CHV	Community Health Volunteers
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
COP	Chief of Party
CRM	Climate Risk Management
CRS	Catholic Relief Service
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTTP	Center for the Triage and the Treatment of the Plague
DAF	Director of Administration and Finance
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DGRE	Direction de la Gestion des Ressources en Eau (Direction of Water Resource Management)
DiMat	District Monitoring Assessment Tool
DIP	Detailed Implementation Plan
DMEAL	Director of Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning
DREAH	Direction Régionale de l'Eau, de l'Assainissement et de l'Hygiène

DREN	Direction Régionale de l'Education Nationale
DRSP	Direction Régionale de la Santé Publique
DSI	Direction of the Information System
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
EDBM	Economic Development Board of Madagascar
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation & Monitoring Plan
ERF	Environmental Review Form
ERR	Environmental Review Report
ESF	Environmental Screening Form
FAA	Fonds d'Appui pour l'Assainissement (Global Sanitation Fund)
FUM	Follow-up Mandona
FY	Fiscal Year
GEM	Groupement des Entreprises de Madagascar
GoM	Government of Madagascar
GSF	Global Sanitation Fund
IBM	Integrated Behavioral Model
ICT4D	Information and Communication Technology for Development
IP	Implementing Partner
IPTT	Indicator Performance Tracking Table
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
JSR	Joint Sectorial Review
KRFF	Local Committees at Fokontany Level
LDP WASH	Local Development WASH Plan
LP2D	Lettre de Politique pour la Décentralisation et le Développement Local
LSHTM	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
MCSP	Maternal and Child Survival Program
MID	Ministère de l'Intérieur et de la Décentralisation (Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization)
MEAH	Ministère de l'Eau, de l'Assainissement et de l'Hygiène
MEO	Mission Environmental Officer
MFI	Micro-Finance Institution
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
MNP	Madagascar National Parks
MOC	Maîtrise d'Ouvrage Communale (Communal Project Management)
MoEEF	Ministry of Environment, Ecology, and Forest
MoFB	Ministry of Finance and Budget
MoID	Ministry of Interior and Decentralization

MoNE	Ministry of National Education
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTDN	Minister of Posts, Telecommunications, and Digital Development
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NPP-WSH	National Platform for the Promotion of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
ODF	Open Defecation Free
ODDIT	Organisme de Développement du Diocèse de Toamasina (Toamasina Diocese Development Organization)
ONCD	National Office of Concertation and Decentralization
ORN	Office Regional de Nutrition (Regional Office of Nutrition)
PCDEAH	Plan Communal de Développement en Eau, Assainissement et Hygiène
PCT	Project Coordination Team
PGDI	Projet de Gouvernance et de Développement Institutionnel (Governance and Institutional Development Project)
PGRM	Projet de Gouvernance des Ressources Minières (Mining Resources Governance Project)
PHE	Population, Health, and Environment
PIC	Projet Pôles Intégrés de Croissance (Integrated Growth Pole Project)
PIDA	Program for Infrastructure and Development in Africa
PIRS	Performance Indicator Reference Sheet
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PNI	WASH National Investment Plan
PNP-EAH	Plateforme Nationale de la Promotion de l'Eau, Assainissement et Hygiène (National Platform for the Promotion of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PPR	Performance Plan Report
PSEAH	Programme Sectoriel en Eau, Assainissement et Hygiène
Q2	Financial Quarter two
RANO WASH	Rural Access to New Opportunities in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
RDONE	Regional Director of National Education
RDOPH	Regional Director of Public Health
RDoWEAH	Regional Director of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
RPGEM	Réseau des Promoteurs de Groupes d'Épargne à Madagascar (Savings Groups Promoters Network in Madagascar)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SE&AM	Suivi Eau et Assainissement de Madagascar (Madagascar Water and Sanitation Monitoring)

SILC	Specialized Investment and Lending Corporation
SLC	Structure Locale de Concertation (Local Dialogue Structure)
SMILER	Simple Monitoring of Indicators for Learning and Evidence-based Reporting
SMMEC	Société Malgache de Mutuelle d'Epargne et de Crédit
SO	Strategic Objective
SRB	Service Régional du Budget – Regional Budget Office
SRMO	Structure de mise en œuvre de la coordination Régionale
STEAH	Service Technique de l'Eau, Assainissement et l'Hygiène (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Technical Department)
STeFI	Suivi Technique et Financier (Technical and Financial Monitoring)
STH	Soil-transmitted Helminth Infections
STTA	Short-term Technical Assistance
SWA	Sanitation and Water for All
SWAp	Sector-wide Approach
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
TA	Technicien d'Appui
TDY	Temporary Duty
TFP	Technical and Financial Partner
TOR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
VAT	Value Added Tax
VA/PSP	Village Agent/Private Service Provider
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WALIS	Water for Africa through Leadership Institutional Support
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WASH-BAT	WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool
WASH-BC	WASH Behavior Change
WHO	World Health Organization
WMA	WASH Market Assessment
WMDP	WASH Market Development Plan
WQAP	Water Quality Assurance Plan
WSP	WASH Service Provider

I PROJECT OVERVIEW/SUMMARY

Project Name:	Rural Access to New Opportunities in Water, Sanitation, And Hygiene, Madagascar (RANO WASH)
Activity Start Date and End Date:	June 15, 2017—June 15, 2023
Name of Prime Implementing Partner:	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere Inc (CARE)
Cooperative Agreement Number:	AID-687-A-17-00002
Name of Subawardees	Catholic Relief Services (CRS), WaterAid, BushProof and Sandandrano
Major Counterpart Organizations	Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; Ministry of Public Health; Ministry of Interior and Decentralization; Ministry of National Education; Ministry of Environment, Ecology, and Forests; Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research; Ministry of Finance and Budget; Ministry of Population, Social Protection, and Woman Promotion; regional and Commune governments
Geographic Coverage	<u>250 communes in 7 regions</u> ¹ : Alaotra Mangoro, Amoron'i Mania, Atsinanana, Haute Matsiatra, Vakinankaratra, Vatovavy and Fitovinany
Reporting Period:	1 January to 31 March 2023

I.1 Project Description/Introduction

USAID awarded the five-year Cooperative Agreement AID-687-A-17-00002 for the USAID The Rural Access to New Opportunities in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Project (RANO WASH) to Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere Inc (CARE) on June 15, 2017. In November 2021, USAID approved a 12-month no-cost extension until 15 June 2023. CARE manages the RANO WASH consortium with core partners Catholic Relief Services (CRS), WaterAid, BushProof, and Sandandrano and access to a broad range of resource partners (Figure 1).

RANO WASH aims to increase equitable and sustainable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services; maximize the impact on human health and nutrition, and preserve the environment in 250 rural communes in seven high-priority regions: Alaotra Mangoro, Amoron'i Mania, Atsinanana, Haute Matsiatra, Vakinankaratra, Vatovavy, and Fitovinany. A full list of the communes in the Project regions is presented in Annex I5.

To accomplish this goal, the Project is developing a systematic partnership with national and regional governments, water and sanitation institutions, communities, private sector actors, civil society organizations, and beneficiaries. The aim is to implement a strategic set of mutually supporting activities that contribute to three interlinked strategic objectives:

1. Strengthening the governance and monitoring of water and sanitation
2. Increasing the engagement of the private sector in the delivery of WASH services
3. Accelerating the adoption of healthy behaviors and the use of WASH services

¹ On August 11, 2021, the region of Vatovavy-Fitovinany was officially split into two distinct regions: Fitovinany, with Manakara as its capital, and Vatovavy, with Mananjary.



Figure 1 RANO WASH Consortium and resource partners

The Project contributes directly to the USAID/Madagascar Health Population and Nutrition's Intermediate Result (IR) 1.1 Sustainable Health Impacts Accelerated and sub-Intermediate Results, for which the development objective is "Improved Human Capacity to Contribute to the Country's Journey to Self-Reliance" as part of USAID/Madagascar Country Development Cooperation Strategy 2021-2025.

The Project also aligns with USAID Madagascar Water for the World Country Plan² through contributions to three out of four program components³:

1. Improved WASH Enabling Environment;
2. Public/Private Partnership for at least basic or safely managed service provision of clean water and sanitation;
3. Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Behavior Change.

The Project is also aligned with the Madagascar Government policies and priorities defined in the initiative for the Emergence of Madagascar (Initiative Emergence Madagascar or IEM) and the General Policy of the State (PGE).

This report covers the period from January to March 2023, corresponding to the second quarter of the FY2023 fiscal year and the second reporting quarter of the RANO WASH project.

² <https://www.globalwaters.org/wherewework/africa/madagascar>
https://www.globalwaters.org/sites/default/files/wfw_madagascar_country_plan.pdf

³ The fourth component is Urban Sanitation and Sanitation Service Provision.

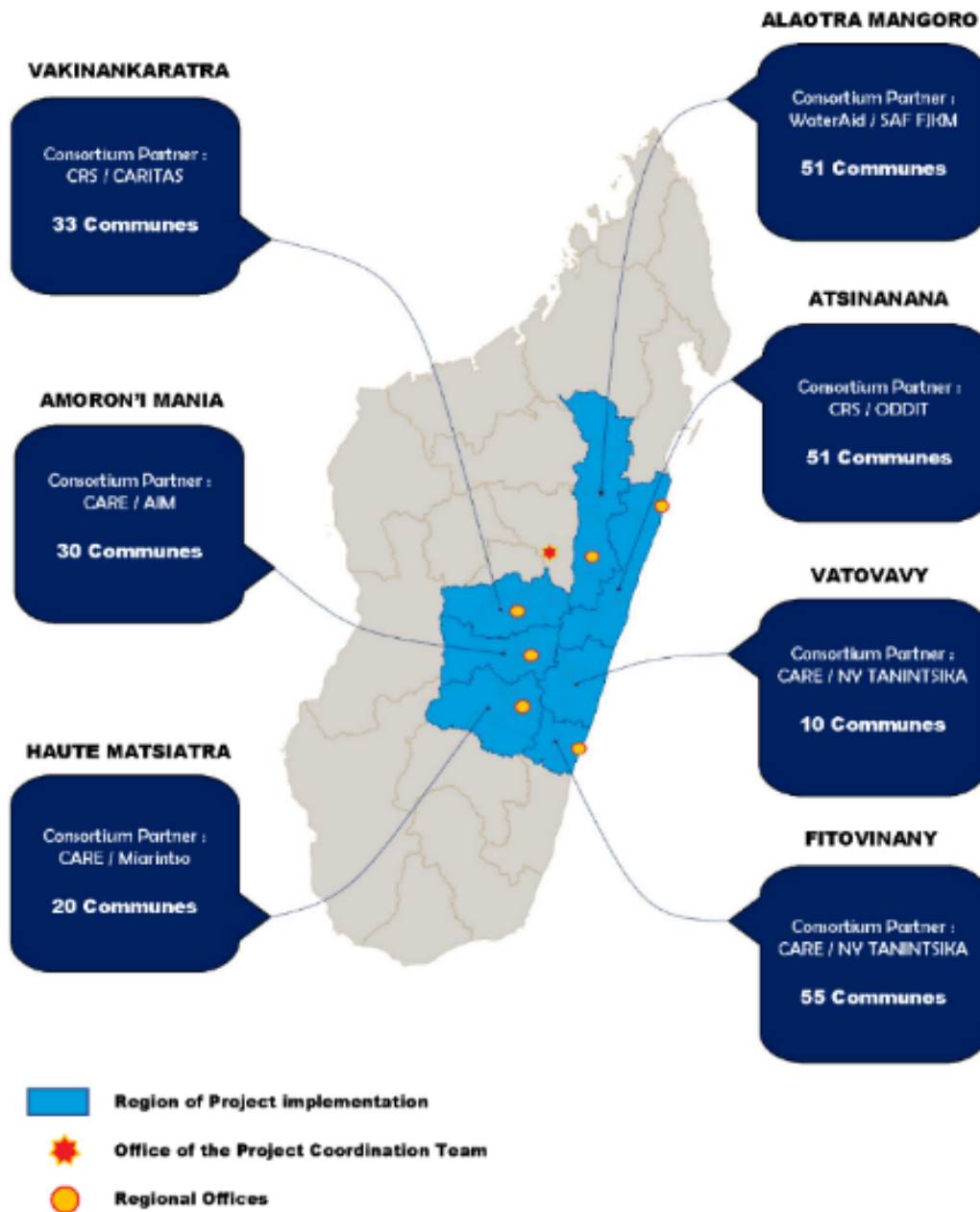


Figure 2. RANO WASH Regions



Picture 1. Safe drinking water in Androy Commune, Haute Matsiatra

2 ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

2.1 Implementation Status

This quarter is marked by significant achievements in access to water. As for the previous quarter, the Project recorded a significant increase in people gaining access to drinking water services, with 81,131 people accessing safely managed water, representing 245% of the 33,155 quarter target and 153% of 90,000 LoP target. 167,880 people access basic drinking water, representing 80% of the 210,000 LoP target. Overall, the number of people for the two indicators is 305,856, representing 102% of the 300,000 LOP target as of Q2.FY23.

The Project continued to support WSPs and Communes to achieve the drinking water targets. The target is met this quarter, with 305,856 people gaining access to safe water services out of the 300,000 targeted for the Project's life (102%). Field technicians per region have been hired and will continue to support the STEAHs until the end of May 2023, feeding data into the SE&AM system to ensure that achievements at the level of the Project's intervention communes are still reported even beyond the life of the Project.

Support activities at the national level have continued the quarter, such as the sustainability of WASH services at the institutional level, reflections on PPP and water quality with WASH sector actors and MEAH, and support for upgrading the SE&AM.

The Project also focuses on disseminating learning, especially resources that can be used in the sector. We held a field visit with a team from the MEAH in Alaotra Mangoro to facilitate the handover to the Ministry. Then, we met with the technical departments to answer their questions following the visits, discuss the measures to be taken regarding the challenges observed in the field and share the tools used. In addition, we made the Project's resources available to sector actors on the project website. Webinars were organized to share these resources on March 21-24, 2023. Slides shared during the webinars⁴, as well as all resources⁵, are available on our website.

⁴ <https://care.mg/ranowash/presentation-apprentissage-et-bonnes-pratiques/>

⁵ <https://care.mg/ranowash/gouvernance-et-suivi-du-secteur-eau-assainissement-et-hygiene/>
<https://care.mg/ranowash/engagement-du-secteur-prive/>
<https://care.mg/ranowash/changement-de-comportement-et-utilisation-de-services/>
<https://care.mg/ranowash/genre-et-inclusion-sociale/>
<https://care.mg/ranowash/suivi-evaluation-redevabilite-apprentissage/>

RANO WASH is in the process of closing out. This quarter, the Project focused its interventions on preparing for the closing, the handover with MEAH/DREAH for the continuity of technical support to the Communes and WSPs, and the dissemination of project learning resources for all WASH actors. The implementation of the closure plan with the consortium members is well underway. The sub-agreements between CARE and the consortium members ended this quarter. The coordination team supported this withdrawal to ensure compliance and all required deliverables at the end of the Project.

On March 15, a USAID delegation led by USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator Maria-Price Detherage, USAID Africa Bureau, and USAID Madagascar Mission Director Anne N. Williams visited the Commune of Andonabe, Vatovavy region. The visit included meetings with the Andonabe Mayor, the WSP manager of the system built by the Project, the midwife head of the health center, teachers and students from the Primary and Secondary Schools, and some community representatives. As Andonabe Commune is supported by RANO WASH and ACCESS, the visit was an opportunity to see the complementarity of interventions between the two projects. Achievements and challenges in the ongoing efforts to increase access to WASH and health services were discussed with the USADI delegation.

Picture 2. Field visit of USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator, Africa Bureau, and USAID Mission Director in Andonabe, Vatovavy



OVERALL INDICATOR PROGRESS

The table below summarizes the evolution of the indicators for the second quarter of FY2023 and Life or Project.

Table 1. Summary progress toward key indicators Q2.23 Update.⁶

Key Indicators	Q2			FY23			Life of Projet (LOP)		
	Target	Actual	%	Target	Actual	%	Target	Actual	%
Value of new funding mobilized to the water and sanitation sectors as a result of USG assistance (USD)		706,998	-	200,000	858,219	429%	1,969,883	2,652,656	135%
# of people gaining access to basic drinking water services	27,833	13,342	48%	55,666	13,546	24%	210,000	167,880	80%
# of people gaining access to safely managed drinking water services	16,578	4,125	25%	33,155	81,131	245%	90,000	137,976	153%
# of people gaining access to a basic sanitation service	-	-	-	-	61,176	-	362,712	426,843	118%
# of people gaining access to a limited sanitation service	-	-	-	-	19,601	-	264,401	315,651	119%
# of institutional settings gaining access to basic drinking water services as a result of USG assistance	-	14	-	-	17	-	211	239	113%
# of Communes certified as "open defecation free" (ODF) as a result of USG assistance	-		-	-	8	162%	68	85	125%

See Annex 10. RANO WASH Project Performance Review Q2.23

⁶ Definitions of the WASH services ladders according to the Joint Monitoring Programme for water supply, sanitation and hygiene (JMP): [WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene \(JMP\) | UN Water](https://www.unwater.org/publications/who-unicef-joint-monitoring-programme-for-water-supply-sanitation-and-hygiene-jmp/) and [redesign_chart_JMP_JUL2017_3-02-e1501763782601.png \(627x1357\) \(unwater.org\)](https://www.unwater.org/publications/who-unicef-joint-monitoring-programme-for-water-supply-sanitation-and-hygiene-jmp/)

2.1.1 Strategic Objective I: Governance and Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Strengthened for Sustainable and Equitable WASH Service Delivery



Key Achievements

- **The Ministry has developed partnerships** with other actors such as WaterAid, CRS, Helvetas, the World Bank and the European Union **for the development of the SE&AM.**
- **134 municipalities have reported** on their WASH governance activities, **out of which 66 municipalities have transferred these data to** the DREAH using the new **SE&AM/DHIS2** forms
- **The SRMO (Regional coordination body)** in RANO WASH intervention regions **continues to ensure regional coordination** after the regional project team's withdrawal.
- RANO WASH organized field visit and meetings with the MEAH staff in four Communes in the Alaotra Mangoro **to share project experiences and to reinforce the technical assistance from the MEAH and DREAH to Communes and WSPs.**
- **Dissemination of learning** through a series of webinars

Table 2 Summary of progress towards key SOI indicators Q2.23 Update.

Key indicators	Q2			FY23			Life of Project		
	Target	Achieved	%	Target	Achieved	%	Target	Achieved	%
# of intervention communes increasing WASH budget	N/A		NA	N/A	25	NA	80	142	178%
% of intervention communes reporting in the SE&AM (in 250 municipalities)	NA		NA	N/A		NA	86%	96%	113%
# of intervention communes engaging with the private sector to provide WASH services	NA		NA	NA	38	NA	105	148	141%
# Number of communes with operational WASH user groups	NA		NA	NA		NA	250	357	142%
# Number of intervention communes with functioning WASH accountability mechanisms	NA		NA	NA	6	100%	200	231	116%

See Annex 10. RANO WASH Project Performance Review Q2.23

IRI.1 Strengthened Government and Stakeholder Commitment and Accountability to Sector Development.

Output I.1.1 Sector coordination and learning mechanisms operating effectively under strong national leadership

During this quarter, The MEAH and RANO WASH organized exchange sessions to discuss the interest, scope, and quality required for a national sector review. The two parties also discussed the feedback received on the content and conduct of previous sector reviews.

Subsequently, the MEAH took the following initiatives: (1) develop the first draft of the terms of reference for the sector review, and (2) collect information to feed into the content of the sector review from the Regional Directors. The MEAH will discuss the decision on the next sector review internally and present the budget and scope of work to its partners.

During this quarter, RANO WASH participated in various events organized by the MEAH. The aim was to promote sectoral collaboration, encourage MEAH leadership in strengthening the WASH sector, engage in sector-wide dialogues, and disseminate learning and key Project resources. (Table 3). (See also Annex 14. Key Events Q2.23)

Table 3. RANO WASH participation in MEAH events in Q2.23

Event	Description
On March 15th and 16th, the MEAH's "Direction Générale de l'Eau" organized a two-day workshop focused on (1) developing a model contract for water management and (2) empowering municipalities to act as project owners for WASH.	RANO WASH consortium and private operators working with the Project actively participated in the dialogue and contributed to finalizing a delegation of management contract model for the sector and a roadmap for empowering municipalities to act as project owners.
On March 17, 2023, the MEAH's Directorate of Planning and	The consortium members participated in the workshop and continued mobilizing other stakeholders in the WASH sector to contribute to improving financial flow data.

Event	Description
Monitoring Evaluation (DPSE) held an awareness workshop on Trackfin.	
A delegation from Madagascar, led by the MEAH Minister, participated in the UNC Water Conference from March 22 to 24, 2023.	RANO WASH actively participated in meetings organized by the MEAH's Projects and Programs Coordination Unit (UCPP) with sector stakeholders to prepare for Madagascar's participation in the event.
On March 10, 2023, the MEAH's Directorate of Water Resources Development (DVRE) team organized a workshop to validate the National Water Quality Plan for Madagascar (PNQE).	RANO WASH and the consortium members actively for the document feed-back. Several ideas in the plan align with RANO WASH's messages, such as the decentralization of water analysis laboratories and the establishment of a plan for water quality assurance.
Reforestation led by MEAH and carried out by sector stakeholders on March 3rd, 2023.	
Madagascar Madio roadmap workshop, urban component, February 22	RANO WASH and the consortium members participated in the reforestation
Solid Waste Exhibition March 15-17,	

Output I.1.2 Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene institutional capacity developed to meet strategic needs

Project activities focused on transferring achievements, good practices, and challenges in developing the WASH sector.

A team from MEAH and RANO WASH members visited four Communes in the Alaotra Mangoro Region to see firsthand the achievements and to identify the next steps to ensure continuity of efforts. The Project selected sites with challenges that require technical support from MEAH/DREAH, including technical support to a new STEAH, support to the Commune for contracting with a private company in the PPP model for drinking water services, conflict management between the Commune and the WSP, and technical support to the Commune for the quality of the infrastructure.

The field visits served as case studies. Technical meetings followed the visits to define the actions to be taken and share resources RANO WASH developed and used during the 6-year implementation.

These resources are available on the RANO WASH website⁷.

Activities planned for next quarter

- Accompany MEAH/DREAH in the technical support of the Communes and WSPs;
- Continue the dissemination of resource documents that can serve the sector.

⁷ <https://care.mg/ranowash/#>

IRI.2 Improved Sector Monitoring, Analysis, and Learning, Influencing Policy

Output 1.2.1 SE&AM strengthened and extended

The Project has assigned field agents to support the STEAHs in mastering data entry in DHIS2-SE&AM. 66 STEAHs have successfully entered data into DHIS2. Form functionality is still a challenge. 134 STEAHs still use an Excel template provided by MEAH.

Technical assistance to MEAH has also continued to ensure the operationalization of the DHIS2-SE&AM system:

- Follow-up on the improvement of the template by MEAH technicians,
- Support to STEAHs, WSPs, and DREAHs in the collection and reporting of data, respecting the SE&AM circuit
- Data upload on DHIS2 mobile, using the accounts of the Communes, WSPs, and DREAHs,
- Monitoring and support of MEAH on data processing and extraction.

The MEAH has extended its partnership for the development of the upgraded SE&AM. Several institutions will support the initiative to strengthen the SE&AM system: WaterAid, CRS, Helvetas, the World Bank, and the European Union.

In Q3.23, RANO WASH will meet with these partners to discuss the achievements and the challenges for the continuity of support for the operationalization and scaling up of its use in other regions.

See Annex 17. SE&AM / Monitoring System Strengthening Q2.23

Output 1.2.2 Learning agenda implemented to increase and better regulate private sector engagement in WASH

RANO WASH organized a series of webinars on March 21-24 to share all the resources developed and used by the Project. The presentations⁸ during the event and these tools are available to all WASH actors on the Project website.

The ten webinar topics were as follows:

1. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for drinking water services;
2. Drinking water service coverage strategy;
3. Environmentally compliant and sustainable WASH infrastructure in the face of climatic hazards;
4. Holistic WASH Behavior Change strategy;
5. Market-based sanitation model;
6. Study and revitalization of the faecal sludge management service;
7. Support to institutions for the sustainability of WASH services;
8. Promotion of the menstrual hygiene in the RANO WASH Project;
9. Gender mainstreaming strategy in the WASH sector;
10. Dynamics of the MEAL system in the RANO WASH Project.

Activities planned for next quarter

- Meet with WASH sector partners willing to support SE&AM to ensure continuity of efforts;
- Continue to disseminate RANO WASH experiences and resources.

⁸ <https://care.mg/ranowash/presentation-apprentissage-et-bonnes-pratiques/>

IRI.3 Strengthened Subnational Systems

Output 1.3.1 Decentralized resources available for sustained WASH service delivery

After the RANO WASH team's withdrawal at the regional level, the DREAH in the intervention regions continued to hold regional coordination meetings. The topics were mainly related to the preparation for World Water Day and the responses due to the hurricane season with an expanded committee of the WASH cluster.

The UCPP shared that revitalizing the SRMOs is part of their activities for this year.

DREAH continued to facilitate the Suivi Technique et Financier tool (STEF: technical and financial monitoring services) in project regions to monitor the performance of private water supply operators and communes as contracting authorities continue to progress despite the withdrawal of our teams at the local level.

During this quarter, service managers were required to submit their semi-annual reports. Discussions with the DREAHs revealed delays in submitting these reports by managers, who were reminded by letter. For example, only 4 of the 14 managers in the Vakinakaratra region submitted their reports for the second half of 2022.

The MEAH met with sector partners on the water services management contract. During this meeting, MEAH shared this challenge with some private managers.

Following the appointment of regional governors, the new DREAH structure no longer includes monitoring and evaluation services, which needs to be clarified at the DREAH level regarding allocating resources for these tasks. This has impacted the designation of the DREAH's organization for monitoring municipalities and technical and financial water services monitoring. RANO WASH raised this issue with the MEAH's Directorate of Information Systems and suggested that internal discussions be held between DREAH and MEAH to address this challenge.

Output 1.3.2 Commune management capacities strengthened for WASH service delivery.

During this quarter, the MEAH's focal points for the life cycle costing (focal points for LCC modeling of WASH services at the municipal level) provided coaching to the municipalities of Rano Mafana (Atsinanana), Belavabary (Alaotra Mangoro), Antsoantany (Vakinakaratra), and Ambatmarina (Amaron'i Mania). They updated cost models and trained municipal agents and DREAH on using them.

IRI.4 Increased community control over WASH services

Output 1.4.1 Commune and communities with an active civil society, aware of and organized to claim their right to water and sanitation

In FY23, RANO WASH focuses on activating SE&AM indicators monitoring collected by STEAH with the supervision of the MEAH. From Q4.22, RANO WASH distributed data collection tools and coached MEAH to support communes and ensure data control. The data collection module was improved due to the technical difficulties encountered by the Commune.

During this quarter, in collaboration with the MEAH, the MID finalized the development process of the Local Governance Index (LGI) form for municipalities. This tool includes accountability mechanisms, local consultation structures, and accessibility of information related to WASH.

Additionally, the ministry integrated RANO WASH monitoring modules for accountability mechanisms and local consultation structures indicators into the SE&AM DHIS2 monitoring and evaluation information system. Projects that wish to support municipalities in providing these indicators can activate them in the SE&AM DHIS2.

After the RANO WASH withdrawal at regional and communal levels, the Project engaged field agents to support STEAHs in reporting their achievements in the SE&AM DHIS2. These STEAHs still require support to use the platform correctly. The field agents will continue to deliver technical assistance to the STEAHs and work closely with WSPs.

Output 1.4.2 Communes with functional WASH accountability mechanisms

At the national level and in the six regions of intervention

"202 communes had an operational accountability mechanism out of a target of 200, and 245 local consultation structures have engaged in exchanges between dynamic actors in the commune, including communities, service providers, and authorities."

These results from FY22 are the last results collected for the Life of Project regarding accountability mechanisms.

As mentioned in Output 1.4.1, RANO WASH's transition activities are focused at the level of MEAH and DREAH to obtain data and provide support as needed to the Communes and STEAH so that local structures and accountability mechanisms are operational.

of intervention communes with functional WASH accountability mechanisms

116%



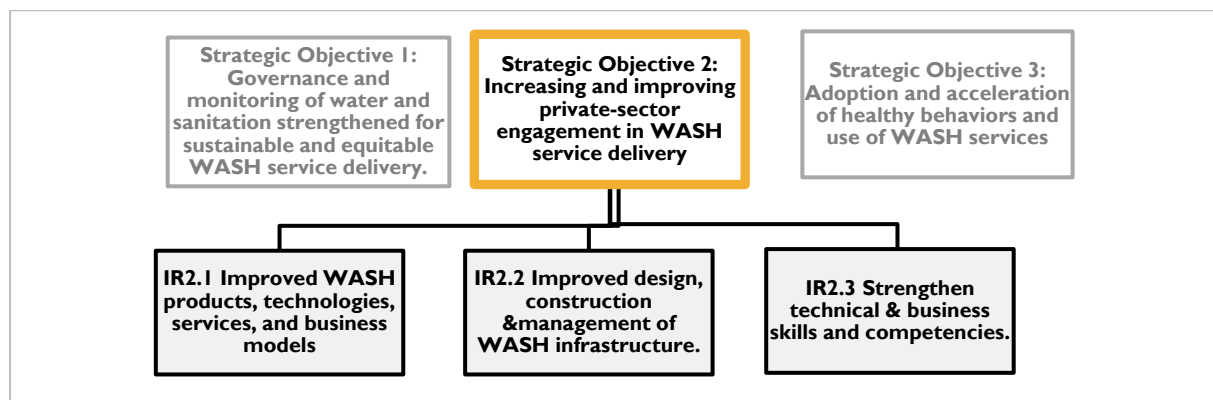
Activities planned for next quarter

- Continue to support the DSI/MEAH in operationalizing the SE&AM platform.

Picture 3. Ideas' box review, Amparintsokatra commune, Alaotra Mangoro



2.1.2 Strategic Objective 2: Increasing Private-Sector Engagement in Delivering WASH Services



Key Achievements

- **RANO WASH reached 305,856 people with access to basic or safely managed water, exceeding its Life of Project objective of 300,000 (102%).**
- **The project reached 137,976 out of LoP objectives 90,000 people (153%) for access to safely managed drinking water services, and 167,880 out of 210,000 (80%) access to basic drinking water**
- **In Q2.FY23, 13,342 of 27,833 people (48%) gained access to basic drinking water services, and 4,125 of 16,578 people (25%) gained access to safely managed drinking water services, with projected sales of 5,069 for new water users in Q1.23;**
- **75 water systems, of which 65 water systems are operational, of which 8 systems are completed during Q2.23, and 10 water systems are under construction.**
- **Dissemination of learning through a series of webinars**

Table 4. Summary progress toward key SO2 indicators Q2.23 Update

Key Indicators	Q2			FY23			Life of Project		
	Target	Actual	%	Target	Actual	%	Target	Actual	%
# of people gaining access to basic drinking water services	27,833	13,342	48%	55,666	13,546	24%	210,000	167,880	80%
# of people gaining access to safely managed drinking water services	16,578	4,125	25%	33,155	81,131	245%	90,000	137,976	153%
# of institutional settings gaining access to basic drinking water services as a result of USG assistance	0	14		-	17		211	239	113%

See Annex 10. RANO WASH Project Performance Review Q2.23

In Q2, the Project focused on routine data collection to report safe water service users. Users of basic services are higher this quarter than safely managed water services users. This result is explained by the installed automatic water kiosks operational from the end of Q1. The number of water users for basic services is expected to increase by June, with the set-up of the remaining water kiosks.

The total number of drinking water beneficiaries, including basic and safely managed services, exceeds the 300,000 Life of Project target beneficiaries, with 305,856 recorded users to date.. There is a clear trend towards households preferring private connections, with 137,976 persons out of 90,000 planned, i.e., 153% of the planned targets, compared to 80% for basic services. 167,880 of the 210,000 people gained access to basic drinking water services.

Demand from service users informed RANO WASH's technical assistance to WSPs. Households are more willing to pay for individual connections, but periods for implementing marketing campaigns must consider the seasonal calendar. Scheduling marketing training before construction is also important to prepare WSPs correctly. It is also critical to develop the commitment of businesses to seek profitability at every opportunity and ultimately to target high customer consumption, well above the current average consumption, to ensure the sustainability of the drinking water business.

In Q2, the Project deduced elements of analysis to the dynamics of the service management companies during the operation phase. In previous years, we have reported a significant difference in the dynamics of the increase in beneficiaries between the beginning of the operation and the operation period itself. The difference is mainly due to the financial capacity of the companies to invest during the construction phase and especially the availability of the "manager" on-site to implement the sales campaigns. RANO WASH required these elements from the WSPs as the increase in service users is part of the contractual obligation and potentially a long-term revenue source.

At the end of Q1, two sites resulting from unsolicited tender applications started the water services operation phase and return on investment after more than a year of work and preparation. The Project conducted a profitability analysis on these unsolicited application sites with a provision of materials. Annex 23 details the context and conditions of the profitability analysis conducted in Alaotra Mangoro: Mandialaza and Amboasary Gara. In addition to training and coaching, the Project's support consisted mainly of providing equipment for the WSPs.

The form of engagement of the private sector was marked by a major difference from the systems that benefited from construction contracts, as WSPs, in this case, received financial support from the Project for the first 100 water connections. Following the large financial investments in construction, both companies sought to generate profits as soon as possible.

The first profit-making activity was the sale of water connections. The companies have valued the sale of connections and generated immediate income in the specific context of their sites. The end of construction work is important for the Company and the dynamics of its human and financial resources because customers are looking for modern, available, and comfortable services. The major condition is the choice of the period so that it coincides with the harvest.

The capacity building on the marketing of the enterprises is fully implemented under these conditions, and although the number of beneficiaries is just growing and would show similar results to a reduced price promotion through subsidization of the connection cost by the Project, in terms of beneficiaries, the turnover generated as well as the interest of the enterprises to do marketing to develop access to water is greatly improved. As of the date of the report, the two companies have generated more than 15,000,000Ar of turnover on the sale of connections in less than one month of operation for about 120 connections, a figure that is expected to increase fivefold in the next three months.

Table 5. Water Service Coverage Summary Q2.23

Total Commune population	Overall target population (APD)	potential coverage inside the commune	coverage objective for RANO WASH	Achieved FY19	Achieved FY20	Achieved FY21	Achieved FY22	added in FY23 Q2	Achieved to date
1,101,494	250,475	394,475	310,925	2,160	48,077	88,333	67,244	17,467	305,856

See Annex 21. Water Coverage Plans Q2.23



IR2.1 Strategic Development and Innovation for Private-Sector Engagement in WASH Service Provision

Output 2.1.3 Increased availability and accessibility of types and range of financial products for WASH services and products

Water kiosk pilot Update: an integrated coverage model

In Q2, Manampy Corporation finalized the production and installation of 40 automatic drinking water kiosks. The technology remains the same, but significant changes have been made to the business model for operating the device. The WSPs of Alaotra Mangoro for the pilot project shared an initially unspoken reluctance towards the automatic kiosk, even if it was developed to increase the turnover and the number of connections of the WSPs.

Manampy Corporation and WSP partnership is fragile and difficult to maintain. The main cause of mistrust on the part of the WSP is the creation of a financial circuit parallel to the "official" WSP circuit created by the management of Manampy Corporation kiosks. Most WSPs surveyed after the kiosks were set up preferred not to have any structure other than themselves to collect client payments.

Manampy's business model was changed to a contract for installing and maintaining the equipment with training for the WSPs to address this conflict. The management is, therefore, entirely given to the WSPs. This format is much more suitable for WSPs involved in the business model's operation by using their local resources, providing accessories, and making recommendations for improvement to Manampy Corporation.

A total of 40 new kiosks are installed and connected in the Amoron'i Mania, Vatovavy, and Fitovinany regions.

See Annex 24. Water Kiosks Q2.23

Private operators' investments in water services

At the end of Q2.23, among the constructions financed by the Project, the Vohimasina Nord site in the Fitovinany region is the most behind schedule at this end of the Project, mainly due to the Company's cash flow. However, technical support and a close follow-up of allocating the Company's financial resources ensure the finalization of the infrastructure until its functionality.

In contrast to Vohimasina Nord, the other sites behind schedule have submitted unsolicited PPP+ applications or switched from community management to private management. These cases concern 7 sites (4 in Haute Matsiatra and 3 in Vakinankaratra) with 3 WSPs. The cause remains linked to the delayed decision-making process of companies to invest.

of WSP/artisans/vendors issued loan products for investment in WASH systems



Revised target : 181

Achieved to date : 192

The parameters that make companies reluctant are:

- **Companies' uncertainty about the solidity and value of their contract**, knowing that the DREAH and the central ministry do not support the certification of current contracts, as explained by the Miharintsoa company on the Sendrisoa and Namoly sites.
- **Profitability is difficult to achieve due to the increase in the cost of materials between the time the study was conducted and the decision to start the work.** Costs can increase by more than 50% for some materials, while households' financial capacity remains unchanged or decreases due to generalized inflation. Without financial support, "small sites" quickly become less profitable, unlike sites where the number of people allows a certain economic resilience (case of Ihazoara and Andranomiditra with the Mickael company).
- **A community is still strongly reluctant to pay for water services, especially in communes with several water systems that are still functional.** It is complicated to manage "paying" sites with "non-paying" sites because the communities at the functional sites refuse to pay for the service despite the rehabilitation of the systems, as is the case in Vakinankaratra with the Naturano company.

However, some parameters favorably influence companies to invest:

- **A relatively high concentration of households** (more than 3,500 people) potentially served by the same system (case of Mandialaza, Amboasary, Ampasimbe, Razanaka)
- **Additional material resources reduce the investment** and, thus, the risk associated with the application.
- **The proximity of the Company's already active sites** (case of Razanaka with Lova Velu, Ampasimbe with 2ADH, who have each made spontaneous applications on these sites)
- **The population's relative wealth coupled with a significant need for water** and an apparent development of services in the Commune.

Following the withdrawal of companies from four sites in Haute Matsiatra, construction materials were intended to strengthen the systems of Ihazoara, Andranomiditra, Namoly, and Sendrisoa. The materials already purchased by the Project will be reallocated to sites that more appropriately meet the criteria for a successful transition from community to private management.

The selected sites have the following characteristics:

- A more concentrated serviceable population** (650 households) directly supplied by the system,
- An active WSP** that has carried out the social and technical studies, the administrative procedures (bids, works contract, delegation contract) and community procedures (4 community meetings) with the support of the DREAH, and
- households are willing to pay for the water connections at a reasonable price** (up to 300,000ar per connection), thus ensuring a faster return on investment for the Company. Ambositra II and Anjoma Ankona in the Amoron'i Mania region are the two candidate communes for this equipment reallocation.

The process is being finalized; work will begin in April.

Activities planned for the next quarter

- Follow-up on the installation of the remaining automatic water kiosks
- Follow-up on the remaining construction works and support to the WSPs to implement their marketing plan

IR 2.2 Improved Design, Construction, and Management of WASH Infrastructure

Output 2.2.1—Improved Design and Construction of Sustainable WASH Infrastructure

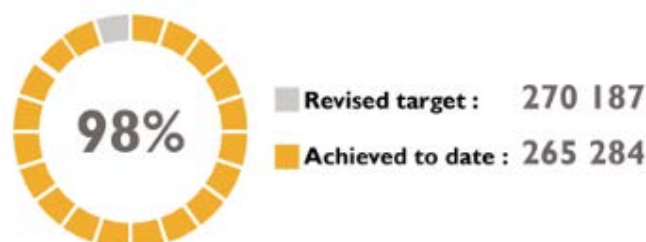
ESF, WQAP, AND CRM MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Among the validation of environmental studies, the project has implemented frameworks based on USAID-validated documentation for implementing artificial lakes via hybrid dams, land expropriation procedures, and compliance with health and safety policies at construction sites.

At this stage, the project has completed 50 environmental assessments, and all the activities have shown evidence of compliance from specific achievements. In addition, the project has conducted environmental training to ensure compliance with environmental measures at all project sites.

In Q2.23, support was focused on work in progress. And recommendations were made for construction work during the rainy season. And still, within the framework of this environmental compliance, field visits were carried out by our field officers on sites to monitor the implementation of environmental compliance measures described in the environmental compliance documents as the works will progress according to the revised schedules.

of people benefiting from the adoption and implementation of measures to improve water resources management as a result of USG assistance



Climate Risk Management

During Q2.23, the passage of cyclone Freddy caused damage to the solar panel installations in Namorona in the Vatovavy region. FITAHIANA Company took charge of the repairs, including the costs incurred in return for CARE's agreement not to apply the delay penalty following the company's request.

In this situation, providing additional budgets for additional work or possible cyclone damage is very important for future water supply projects to ensure the investment and sustainability of water systems.

See Annex 27. Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Report (EMMR) Q2.23

Water quality and monitoring

For this quarter, water quality tests were conducted to ensure the potability of the water, and recommendations were made to the relevant local authorities. Water service providers took advantage of the tests conducted by the RISE project. However, the project reminded them that this is a WSP contractual obligation.

To this end, the monitoring strategy of the water service providers is based on three axes: the evolution of the surrounding environment, the original quality of the source, and the fluctuating parameters requiring periodic monitoring.

Given the results of the water analyses that are not yet satisfactory, the project team is planning a field visit in Q3.23. A tripartite meeting will be organized between the DREAH of each intervention region, the WSPs, and the communes. The main objective of the meeting will be to reinforce the DREAH team's responsibility for supporting and monitoring WSPs and Communes. This intervention will also make the WSPs responsible for notifying STEAH and ASUREP of the results, stopping the distribution of unsafe water, and announcing a temporary water cut to the population. If the result is not yet potable, an immediate shut-off will be announced for an indefinite period or the duration of the resolution of the problem to the general population. The investigation to identify the source of the contamination is therefore decreed by the municipality, via the local councilors, for the good of its population. The objective is always to eradicate the contaminants and preserve the population's health.

This intervention also implies that the municipalities assume greater responsibility for monitoring water quality and taking measures to protect their population. This can help build public confidence in local authorities and improve water quality in the long term. It is also important that water quality test results are communicated to the public and that appropriate and timely action is taken to prevent health risks. Collaboration between the various regulatory agencies, water service providers, and local authorities is essential to ensure that water quality is adequately monitored and that appropriate action is taken when problems arise.

Finally, it should be noted that identifying the source of contamination can be a complex process that requires technical expertise, and local authorities must ensure that the necessary resources and skills are available to conduct these investigations and protect the health of their population.

See Annex 28. Water Quality Test in all Water Supply Systems Q2.23

UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION WORKS AND ACCESS TO WATER SERVICES

At the end of Q2, sixty-five water supply systems are completed and operational. The water systems are divided into two categories based on contracting modality and type of support from the Project.

1. Water Systems built or rehabilitated through direct support from the Project - PPP /PPP+ model and provision of supplies and equipment for PPP+ (Table 5);
2. Water Systems built or rehabilitated unsolicited small PPP+ tender applications funded by WSPs/Communes - facilitated by RANO WASH (Table 6);

I. PPP directly funded by the Project

- The Project directly financed thirty-eight water systems through the PPP design-co-invest- build Operations and Maintenance Model.
- The Bongabe water system (Atsinanana) was completed in Q2.

- Vohimasina Nord (Fitovinany) is at 52% completion. The WSP reported financial difficulties (cashflow). The Project provided three types of support: i) linking the WSP with a bank to obtain credit, ii) providing coaching to revise its business and marketing plans, iii) closely monitoring the use of the credit obtained from the bank and the construction work. The work will be completed in Q3.23.

2. Water Systems built or rehabilitated unsolicited tender applications for small PPP+

- Thirty-seven completed water systems result from unsolicited applications, following the regional WASH fairs organized by RANO WASH. The systems are funded by WSPs, the Commune with provision of supplies and equipment, and technical support from RANO WASH.
- The Project will continue to support WSPs and Communes in implementing the remaining PPP+ initiatives until the end of the Project, notably to support WSP in resolving financing issues. Below are three illustrative examples of challenges and resolutions:
 - Three sites (Alakamisy, Mandrisara, and Soavina in Vakinakaratra) with small PPP+ will no longer be supported by RANO WASH. Due to the WSP's difficulty in finding funding and considering the relatively low number of expected water users, their completion before the end of June is no longer likely.
 - Mickael has positioned itself for two sites (Andranomiditra at 25% and Ihazoara at 30%, Haute Matsiatra). Progress has been slow because the WSP is reluctant to invest further and prioritizes other activities with a quicker income. RANO WASH will support the WSP review of the business model and market plan as described in Output 2.1.3
 - Lova Velu and the Commune of Razanaka in Atsinanana (20%) have secured the necessary financing. The Company has started the work and plans to finish in early June 2023.

RANO WASH has directed the provision of materials for the sites and, with the current progress, expects completion in early June.

The map of all RANO WASH water supply systems is available at the link below:

<https://crsorg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5ef5eca5059a4be3bbd2e415de1b8bd0>

The tables below present a summary status of the remaining project sites with drinking water infrastructure and the work progress as of Q2.FY2023. Annex 19. Water System Construction Q2.23

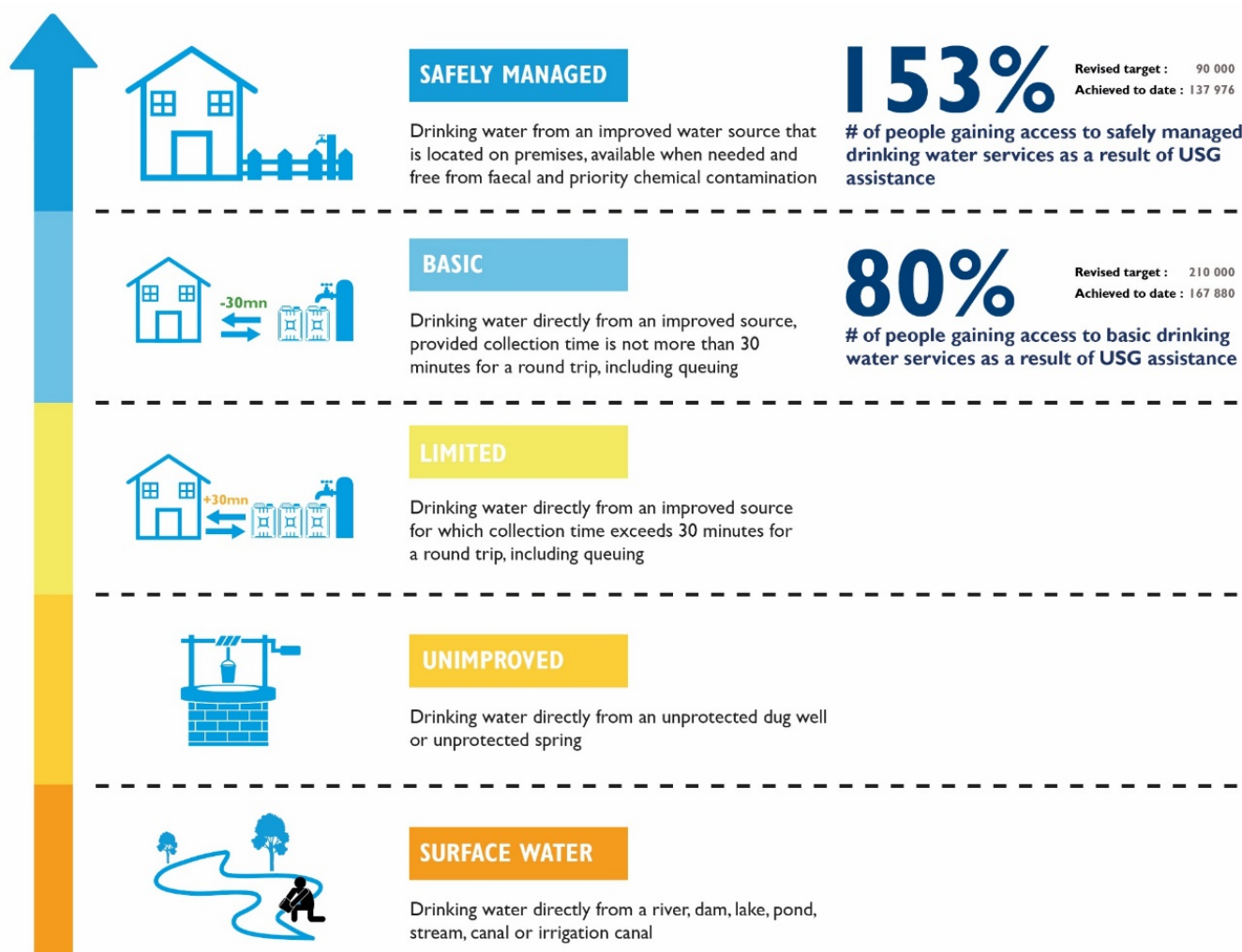
Table 6. Systems directly funded or supported by RANO WASH (construction contract or provision of material and supplies)

Region	Organisation	Commune	Site	Potential water users	Enterprise	Total amount USD	USAID contribution	% USAID	Type of support from USAID	Work progress	Technical Reception	Provisional reception	Final acceptance
ATS	CRS	Mahavelona Foulpointe	Bongabe	582	Sandandrano	\$41,296	\$29,804	72%	Construction-Restricted Tender	100 %	April 2023	April 2023	June 2023
FTV	CARE	Vohimasina Nord	Vohimasina Nord	5,069	Fitahiana	\$138,592	\$115,200	83%	Construction-Restricted Tender	52 %	May-2023	June 2023	June 2023
VKN	CRS	Andranomanelatra	Andranomanelatra	7,500	RANOVELONA	\$136,515	\$79,156	58%	Provision of materials and supplies	40 %	May-2023	June 2023	June 2023
ATS	CRS	Ampasimbe	Ampasimbe	1,637	2ADH	\$36,031	\$8,136	23%	Provision of materials and supplies	20%	June 2023	June 2023	June 2023
ATS	CRS	Razanaka	Razanaka	578	LOVA VELU	\$26,326	\$5,386	20%	Provision of materials and supplies	20%	June 2023	June 2023	June 2023

Table 7. Systems funded by WSPs/Communes - facilitated by RANO WASH – (unsolicited applications following regional fairs - provision of material and supplies)

Region	Organisation	Commune	Site	Potential water users	Enterprise	Total amount USD	USAID contribution	% USAID	Type of support from USAID	Work progress	Technical Reception	Provisional reception	Final acceptance
HTM	CARE	Andranomiditra	Andranomiditra	468	Mickael	\$ 16 175	\$ 1 225	8%	Provision of materials and supplies	25%	May 2023	May 2023	June 2023
HTM	CARE	Ihazoara	Ihazoara	1,573	Mickael	\$ 19 912	\$ 1 828	9%	Provision of materials and supplies	30%	May 2023	May 2023	June 2023
HTM	CARE	Namoly	Namoly	1,460	Miharintsoa	\$ 17 961	\$ 1 225	7%	Provision of materials and supplies	40%	May 2023	May 2023	June 2023
HTM	CARE	Sendrisoa	Sendrisoa	1,799	Miharintsoa	\$ 19 912	\$ 1 829	9%	Provision of materials and supplies	40%	May 2023	May 2023	June 2023

ACCESS TO WATER SERVICES



Source: <https://washdata.org/monitoring/sanitation>

The Life of Project objectives for the number of people accessing safe water services are met this quarter. 305,856 people out of 300,000 targeted gained access to basic and safely managed water services, representing 102% completion. The results showed that households choose private connections over social connections and collective water points.

Several factors led to these good results. The PPP for RANO WASH is a model of adopting a systems approach involving different stakeholders: the government at all levels, different members of the private sector, and the communities using the services. Funding sources are varied. Training and coaching of businesses and continuous learning to adapt WSPs' strategies to seize opportunities to seek profitability and increase consumption have paid off.

This result demonstrates the viability of the drinking water business. With the environment still favorable, scaling up to cover the market potential shown in the graph below can be completed with the private sector members already engaged.

Cumulative forecast VS cumulative actual water users

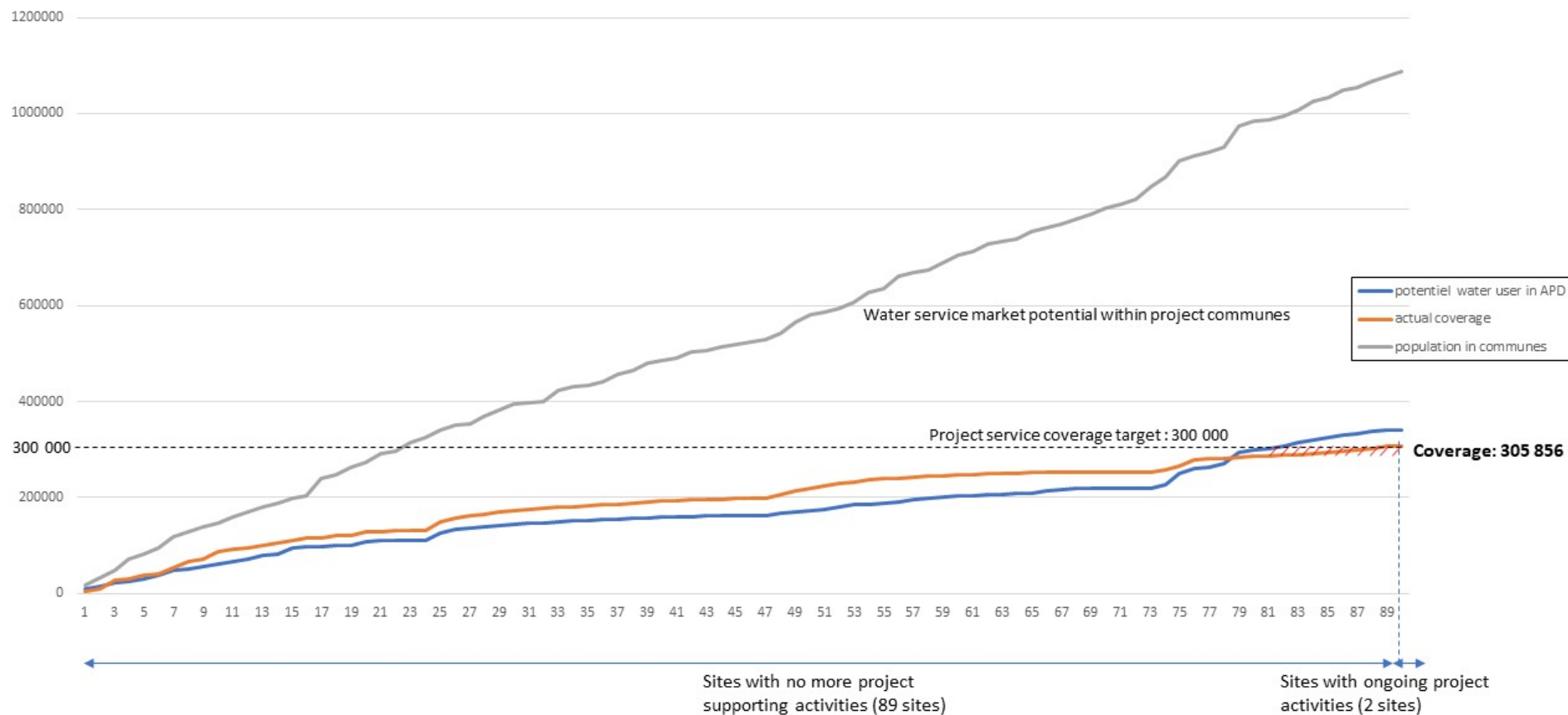


Figure 4. Evolution of water service coverage plans Vs. actuals

Table 8. Basic Drinking Water Services, Q2.23

Regions	Basic drinking water services (new users)									Comments and next steps
	Q1			Q2			FY23			
	target	actual	%	target	actual	%	target	actual	%	
Alaotra Mangoro	16978	204	1%	16978	2,155	13%	33,956	2359	7%	Users opted for private connections.
Atsinanana	-	0		-	9,182	-	-	9,182		
Amoron'i Mania	3618	0		3618	263	7%	7,237	263	4%	
Haute Matsiatra	2700	0		2700	-	-	5,400	-		
Vakinankaratra	-	0		-	350	-	-	350		
Fitovinany	4453	0		4453	1,264	28%	8,906	1,264	14%	
Vatovavy	83	0		83	128	154%	166	128	77%	
Total	27833	204	1%	27833	13342	48%	55,666	13546	24%	

Table 9. Safely Managed Drinking Water Services, Q2.23

Regions	Safely managed drinking water services (new users)									Comments and next steps
	Q1			Q2			FY23			
	target	actual	%	target	actual	%	target	actual	%	
Alaotra Mangoro	10112	13170	130%	10112	516	-	20224	13686	68%	Support for WSPs has yielded results.
Atsinanana	-	25451		-	1,185	-	-	26636		
Amoron'i Mania	2155	8809	409%	2155	891	-	4310	9700	225%	
Haute Matsiatra	1608	9475	589%	1608	-	-	3216	9475	295%	
Vakinankaratra	-	6270		-	468	-	-	6738		
Fitovinany	2652	6370	240%	2652	1,065	-	5304	7435	140%	
Vatovavy	50	7461	14922%	50	-	-	100	7461	7461%	
Total	16578	77006	465%	16578	4,125	-	33155	77006	232%	

FECAL SLUDGE MANAGEMENT

As shared in Q1.23, Sandandrano completed the study and revitalization of a sludge treatment service, a Preliminary Detailed Design (Avant Projet Détaillé).

The report of this study is available on the RANO WASH page of the CARE website:: <https://care.mg/ranowash/apd-gestion-des-boues-de-vidange-sandandrano/>

This report on detailed design study (APD) provides information and decision elements for revitalizing a fecal sludge management service (FSM) in Madagascar. The document updates the development of the Public Private Partnership for managing and operating sanitation systems.

The report provides general data on the four sites studied. And as already shared in the Q4.FY2022 report, an in-depth study was conducted for the EcoDio fecal sludge treatment site in Fianarantsoa.

The technical evaluations for selecting this site are shared in the APD report.

The report provides the following:

- Institutional recommendations based on the PPP, especially clarifying the roles of the public sector in the success of the PPP;
- Legal recommendations for institutional stability of the private operator;
- Sociological recommendations highlighting the importance of community engagement to accept and use services;
- Technical recommendations to strengthen the overall functioning of the ECODIO enterprise.

In Q2.FY2023, Sandandrano held a meeting for the DREAH, the Urban Commune of Fianarantsoa and the EcoDio to share the technical study result and propose a management contract and a business plan adapted to the FSM model available.

During the "RANO WASH Learning and good practices event" in March 2023, Sandandrano presented the study on FSM in Haute Matsiatra, Study and revitalization of the faecal sludge management service.

Activities planned for the next quarter

- Monitoring of construction progress;
- Monitoring of the evolution of access to drinking water coverage;
- Periodic control of the respect of environmental protection measures and water quality with the WSP.

IR2.3 Strengthened Technical and Business Skills and Competencies

Output 2.3.1 Strengthened capacity-building for the private sector in business systems and technical operations

MARKET-BASED SANITATION : SUPPORT TO THE KABONE MANDAMINA GROUP

In Q2., the Project provided support to the Kabone Mandamina group. The support consisted of two complementary steps: a diagnosis and coaching of the Kabone Mandamina group functioning and an allocation of 460 Satopan interfaces to launch activities and boost the group's cash flow after sales.

Following the prototype testing phase with iDE, customer interest in the latrines models has already been proven. The Kabone Mandamina group has received 37 orders for latrines in Lokomby, and all products are being delivered to customers. However, coaching the Kabone Mandamina group is an important step in transitioning to full-scale production and distribution.

As with any business, the strength and ability of the Kabone Mandamina manager are critical to the operation of the business. Thanks to its leader's skills, the group has succeeded in producing, exhibiting, and selling its products. However, the nature of the product "latrine" makes it necessary to have a large geographical coverage in prospecting for customers and sales to obtain a sufficiently profitable turnover to develop the business properly.

Like other WASH entrepreneurs, such as seamstresses and even water systems operators, Kabone Mandamina faces a problem that severely limits any growing private actor: how to ensure the Company's functioning for members who are not physically under the supervision of the director?

The coaching consisted of restructuring the group's functioning by redistributing the roles and the added value generated by the products. The remote members can thus carry out production and sales while the management ensures the supply and logistics of raw materials for production. The Satopan stock is the first support in implementing this new business model. Managed by the director of Kabone Mandamina in Manakara, the stock is intended to supply more distant sites such as Lokomby, Manampatrana, and Mananjary.

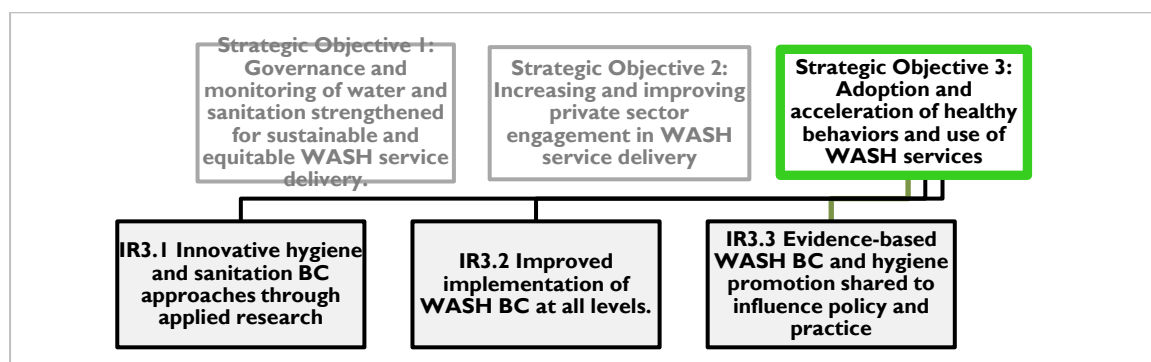
Two main issues were identified as potentially limiting the success of the coaching: (1) the cost of the interface lab is highly aligned with the current price of Satopan, and (2) a slowed sales dynamic due to the prioritization of more direct income for the masons of Kabone Mandamina.

The Project plans to test different price points with Kabone Mandamina to analyze the market's sensitivity to price to overcome these two disadvantages and then to hire a local service provider to ensure the follow-up and, above all, the revitalization of specific activities that will contribute to generating toilet sales revenue. The service provider will thus ensure the business' survivability at first, as it is still difficult to ensure growth without additional support. International experience sharing has estimated, for example, that with project support, a Sani market takes an average of four (04) years to develop fully. However, although relatively successful, Kabone Mandamina remains a blueprint for future projects to become a major market-based sanitation player.

Activities planned for the next quarter

- Continue coaching Kabone Mandamina group.

2.1.3 Strategic Objective 3: Accelerating the Adoption of Health Behaviors and Use of WASH Services



Key achievements

- Dissemination of learning through a series of webinars
- Study on sustainability of WASH services in institutional settings
- Study on handwashing in schools with Fondation Mérieux and Happy Tap
- Coordination and influence in improving WASH-Friendly approaches process

Table 10. Summary of Progress for Key SO3 Indicators Q2.23

Key Indicators	Q2			FY23			Life of Project		
	Target	Actual	%	Target	Actual	%	Target	Actual	%
# of new communities verified as ODF	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A		5,429	5,543	102%
# VSLA members investing in WASH products and services	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A		22,400	23,133	103%
# of people gaining access to a basic sanitation service	N/A	-		N/A	61,176		362,712	426,843	118%
# of people gaining access to a limited sanitation service	N/A	-		N/A	19,601		264,401	315,651	119%

See Annex 10. RANO WASH Project Performance Review Q2.23

IR3.1 Improved Hygiene- and Sanitation-Behavior-Change Solutions through Applied Research

Output 3.1.1: Behavioral science innovations for WASH BC solutions through applied research

Partnership with Happy Tap and Fondation Mérieux

This study was continued with the two partner organizations. Thus, the T1 observations were conducted during this quarter. The results of this T1 observation are to be compared with those obtained during T0 or the initial observation.

Thus, this observation showed a clear increase in handwashing with soap by students at the EPP Antanamalaza, where RANO WASH installed the nudges, with a variation of 100%. The variation is relatively less for the school where Happy Tap intervened (+25%), while a decrease in the number of handwashing at the school where Fondation Mérieux intervened is observed. The brief results of this study can be consulted in Annex 33.



Picture 4. Queue at a handwashing device (DLM) during the observation session in EPP Andranomanelatra

Dissemination activities

The Project conducted a final series of webinars in March to disseminate the approaches and tools used during implementation. This series of webinars took place from March 21 to 24. For SO3, the following two topics were presented:

- The behavior change strategy with the following approaches: sanitation (CLTS and MBS), Grow-Up Sticker, VSLA
- The strategy of interventions at the institutional level

The tools are now available on the website and can be downloaded by those who want to use them. All the resources used by SO3 are available on the project web pages: <https://care.mg/ranowash/changement-de-comportement-et-utilisation-de-services/>

Activities planned for the next quarter

- Closing all initiated research activities;
- Finalizing the download of files and organizing them to facilitate public access.

IR3.2 Improved Implementation of WASH Behavior Change at All Levels: Communities, Government, and Private Sector

Output 3.2.1: WASH BC program coordination improved in RANO WASH regions

This quarter, the program team organized a joint field visit with the MEAH team to facilitate the transition of activities to MEAH. This joint mission was also an opportunity to sensitize the MEAH team on the challenges faced by local actors and how they could contribute to addressing these challenges, particularly through collaboration with the regional directorates.

From this visit and following the discussion with the mayors, the Directorate of Hygiene Promotion (DHP) representative realized the importance of the model hygiene code to be disseminated to the Communes. The DHP is committed to disseminating this model at the level of the communes and partners once the guide is developed. The field visits and meetings with local actors allowed MEAH staff to realize the importance of their roles, especially in providing practical guides to frame interventions.

Output 3.2.2: Innovative CLTS and WASH BC implementation

CLTS AND SANITATION

The Project no longer carries out direct actions in the field. However, due to the importance of the investments made in the framework of the MBS pilot model in Lokomby, Fitovinany region, the Project continues to support the network of local masons who constitute the embryonic enterprise "Mpandraharaha Kabone Mandamina." Thus, the team proceeded to the network assessment to see what additional support the Project could provide.

The Project will hire a service provider to support them in deploying their activities in the Fitovinany region to help this network of entrepreneurs valorize their achievements following the HCD process and the creation of the Kabone Mandamina brand. More details on this network support activity are provided in the SO2 section.

VSLAs

In March 2022, RANO WASH initiated a collaboration with SMMEC as part of the linkage and sustainability process. Amoron'i Mania SMMEC offered loan services to VSLA members to facilitate their access to credit. Three VSLA groups from the Commune of Ilaka Centre are involved in this model, and some of their members have been able to take out loans from the SMMEC Fanantenana agency in Ambositra.

These loans vary from 200.000ar to 5.000.000ar, according to the contract between the members and the SMMEC Agency. It should be noted that this offer is specific to VSLA groups, and it is only available to members of VSLA groups who are at least three years old and that the group itself serves as a guarantor for the members.

Given the maturation time needed to allow members to access and use the service, the Project can no longer evaluate this linkage activity, but this issue will be discussed during the transition meeting with RPGEM for next quarter.

Support for healthcare facilities and schools

In this second quarter, thirteen (13) additional schools have benefited from access to potable water services.

These activities are linked to the construction of drinking water systems.

At the national level, the workshop to share and reflect on the study's results on the sustainability of WASH services at the institutional level was held on February 27 and 28. Representatives from the following entities attended the workshop:

- Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene;
- Ministry of National Education;
- Ministry of Public Health;
- Ministry of Interior and Decentralization;
- Ministry of Budget and Finances;
- Technical and financial partners: USAID, ACCESS, UNICEF, WHO, Fondation Mérieux, RANO WASH, HELVETAS, GRET, CARE.

The draft guide on sustainability of WASH services at the institutional level has been developed and is available for consultation in the Project website. The guide will be finalized in Q3.

<https://care.mg/ranowash/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/GUIDE-PRACTIQUE-PERENNISATION-VERSION-MALAGASY.pdf>

Picture 5. View of the participants of the workshop on the sustainability of WASH services at the institutional level



The workshop allowed the consulting team to report on the results of the field visit and to propose improvements that could be made to sustain WASH services in schools and health facilities. Possible management models were also presented and discussed in group work.

After the workshop, the consultant proposed a draft guide that will help managers at the institutional level, which can be found in Annex 33. This guide provides key steps and activities for institutional leaders to consider and implement. The Systems Approach analytical framework was used in developing this guide to consider all factors necessary to sustain the service.

Activities planned for the next quarter.

- Finalization of the study with the presentation of the final report and dissemination of the guide developed;
- Transition session with RPGEM to present the activities carried out by the Project;
- Transition session with MEAH on hygiene promotion and behavior change activities.

IR 3.3 Evidence-based WASH behavior change and hygiene promotion shared to influence policy.

Output 3.3.1 National-level networks, policies, and programs engaged for sustainable WASH BC

Workshop with the Ministry of Public Health

The Project participated in two workshops organized by the Ministry of Public Health to continue efforts to influence the improvement of the WASH-friendly health facility approach.

The first event was a coordination meeting of WASH partners at the health facility level. The workshop was held on February 7 at Pavé Antaninarenina. Seven organizations attended it in addition to MoH staff, including UNICEF, RANO WASH, WaterAid, MCD-Global Health, the ACCESS project, WSUP, and Action Contre la Faim.

The workshop allowed the Ministry of Public Health (MPH) to recognize the challenges faced in implementing the WASH-friendly health education approach, even though these challenges have been discussed for some time by the various partners.

The MPH's assessment revealed that only 4 of 23 regions have WASH-friendly health facilities. Many health facilities need help to finalize the process, particularly because the Ministry's central team needs more budget to follow up. The possibility of decentralizing this follow-up to the MPH regional teams was raised but is not yet welcomed by the central team.

Another challenge discussed was the collection of WASH data at the institutional level and the inconsistency of the indicators used for this data collection. It was discussed how to update the indicators to be consistent with the JMP indicators and integrate this collection into the DHIS 2 tool already used by the MSP.

Finally, a challenge discussed was the need to simplify the certification process so that it is no longer as cumbersome and budgetary. As a result of these discussions, participants agreed to update the National WASH Friendly Training Guide. This update is scheduled for April 2023.

In addition, after several months of updating, the WASH Friendly Training curriculum was finalized by the Ministry of Public Health. The curriculum is divided into three target groups: one for health workers, another for community workers, and a third for members of the hygiene committee at the health facility level.

A workshop for this curriculum's presentation and technical validation was held on February 23 and 24. The technical validation means that the technical content and the implementation of the Learning to Master (LTM) approach are judged as compliant and following the standards.

In a Malagasy version of the trainer's guide for community agents, these guides have been shared with partners and can be consulted on the project website:

<https://care.mg/ranowash/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Guide-du-formateur-Agent-de-Sante.pdf>
<https://care.mg/ranowash/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Guide-du-formateur-COMITE-DHYGIENE.pdf>
<https://care.mg/ranowash/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Guide-du-formateur-Agent-communautaire.pdf>

Activities planned for the next quarter

- Continued dissemination of project approaches, activities, and tools to partners, especially by promoting the Project's website.

2.2 Gender Mainstreaming

Gender activities for FY23 focus on disseminating gender and social inclusion lessons learned and the evaluation of Gender mainstreaming in all project interventions through the Gender Marker.

Dissemination of Gender and Social Inclusion learning

As part of its transition, the Project held a series of webinars on March 21-24, 2023. The purpose of the event was to share the resources developed and used by RANO WASH during implementation. These resources have been subject to learning and improvement. 12 themes were covered during the 4 days, including two webinars on gender mainstreaming and social inclusion⁹:

Stratégie d'intégration de genre dans le secteur WASH

- 1 Pourquoi la stratégie Genre du projet?
- 2 Comment avons-nous mis en œuvre cette stratégie?
- 3 Avec quels outils?



Figure 5. The outline of the gender mainstreaming strategy presentation

⁹ <https://care.mg/ranowash/genre-et-inclusion-sociale/>

i) Gender Mainstreaming Strategy in the WASH Sector

We shared during this webinar the results of the gender analysis at the beginning of the Project and during COVID-19, the gender strategies considering the results of these analyses and aligned with CARE International's unified framework on women's empowerment and gender equality promotion, and all the transformative approaches promoted by RANO WASH. The presentation, training, and implementation tools from this sharing event are available on the RANO WASH website.

ii) Menstrual hygiene promotion:

RANO WASH presented its menstrual hygiene strategies and the training and implementation tools used. These resources on menstrual hygiene are available on the project website.

Gender marker

RANO WASH used the Gender Marker¹⁰ to facilitate self-assessment of gender mainstreaming by staff and gender focal points. The tool was used at mid-term and at the end of the Project. The Gender marker for the final evaluation is attached to this report (Annex 34). In the mid-term, the results revealed that RANO WASH was gender-responsive. And by the end of the Project, the Project had made progress and become transformative. The approaches used generated changes in social norms at different levels: households, local associations, enterprises, Communes, etc. However, the main recommendation for projects like RANO WASH is to use quantitative data to provide more evidence and fuel scaling up and policy change. Figure 8 provides definitions of the different scores.

Figure 6. CARE Gender Marker Grade Definition

What do the grades mean?

Projects are awarded a grade from 0 to 4 along CARE's Gender Continuum. Note that a grade of 2 or above for humanitarian response demonstrates a significant achievement in integrating Gender.

0 HARMFUL	1 NEUTRAL	2 SENSITIVE	3 RESPONSIVE	4 TRANSFORMATIVE
Programming that ignores the economic /social /political roles, rights, entitlements, responsibilities, obligations, and power relations associated with being female and male, as well as the dynamics between and amongst men and women, boys and girls	Programming that works with gender norms. Reinforces and may take advantage of pre-existing gender inequitable structures, systems, and social divisions relating to Gender. Does not consider how gender roles and relations can impede the achievement of programming outcomes or how programming can negatively affect gender roles and relations.	Programming that adapts to gender norms. Works around existing gender differences and inequalities to ensure equitable allocation /services /support aligned with the pre-existing gender differences, structures, systems, and power divisions in society. Aware of the effect of leveraging inequitable gender norms for programming outcomes.	Programming that challenges inequitable gender norms. Responds to individuals' different needs and constraints based on their Gender and sexuality. Opens space for discussing, challenging, and engaging with inequitable gender structures, systems, divisions, and power relations. Provides the opportunity for participants to question, experiment and challenge genre inequities.	Policies and programs that change inequitable gender norms and relations to promote equality. Not only has the ambition to transform Gender but has the resources, willingness, and capacity to institutionalize transformative programming.

¹⁰ http://gender.careinternationalwikis.org/media/care_gender_marker_guidance_english.pdf

2.3 Implementation Challenges and Modifications Made/Issues Addressed from the Last Quarterly Report

Table 11. Implementation Challenges Q2.23 update

Challenges	Modification / Resolution
<p>COVID-19 The pandemic's uncertain evolution is challenging for all project stakeholders as it delays decision-making. The launch of the tendering and contracting process for new water systems was delayed by three months due to the lockdown, the closure of administrative offices, and the MEAH's COVID-19 response was prioritized. The Project adapted its approaches for business continuity and seized the opportunity to advance access to WASH services as a priority to respond to the pandemic. Travel restrictions at the national and local levels delayed several activities, such as data collection to finalize the WMDP, MEAL data collection, or equipment transport for the water systems.</p>	<p>All restrictions are lifted, but the project team must comply with sanitary measures.</p>
<p>Quality tests. The analysis of water quality by the Institut Pasteur of Madagascar was limited this year because it was difficult to mobilize the IPM for water analyses that require on-site travel since the pandemic. Water operators continued the analyses with their means.</p> <p>In Q1, the IPM resumed its operations to meet water quality testing needs at the regional level. The region of Vatovavy Fitovinany is still in the process of seeing with the IPM their availability.</p>	<p>IPM has resumed its normal pace. The partnership with the RISE Project should also help WSPs benefit from IPM support.</p> <p>We have strengthened the monitoring and support of WSPs to ensure the treatment and monitoring of water quality. This will be a major project effort in FY22.</p> <p>We will strengthen the involvement of DREAHs in monitoring and supporting WSPs and Communes to ensure the quality of water provided to the population.</p>
<p>Paradigm shifts regarding private sector engagement The main challenges in engaging the private sector in providing WASH services reside in considering the private sector as a development actor and partner and for all stakeholders to understand and adopt a market-based mindset. It starts with the project members, who are more familiar and comfortable with community-based approaches and suspicious of the private sector. Government and local authorities have historically promoted the idea of free public services and have not developed an enabling environment for private sector engagement and investment.</p>	<p>Water service providers are small and growing businesses. They have the technical capacity for infrastructure but lack management and marketing capacity. This gap still makes it difficult to change the thinking of all WASH actors because we still need to build the capacity of these companies. The change is not obvious because it is a long process, and the expected results require more time. However, we are aware that this is a sustainable solution.</p> <p>We continued to organize events to share and debate the challenges of private-sector engagement in the WASH sector. We will continue to involve the DREAH and the MEAH at the national level in the reflections on the involvement of the private sector in influencing the sector.</p> <p>We will also continue training and coaching businesses to strengthen their marketing strategy. They are beginning to implement activities according to the work plans developed together</p>

Challenges	Modification / Resolution
	<p>but still require close follow-up because the impacts are not immediate. The appropriate solution is applied, such as providing materials to constitute a "revolving stock" system and an easy payment strategy. The support of the companies must be a long process until they take the pace to become a real entrepreneur.</p> <p>We are also organizing various events to engage investors to mobilize resources for the WASH sector and various funding institutions to support private sector engagement for the WASH sector. Smaller operators are among the main victims of the current inflation. We try to support the companies by providing materials and their connection with private sector support institutions and/or investment and guarantee institutions. We also strengthen them to advocate with the leaders.</p> <p>As part of the transition, we will organize a workshop and handover field visit with MEAH staff to reinforce achievements and discuss challenges, good practices, and lessons learned.</p>
<p>Monitoring social changes to promote Gender and social inclusion: To monitor gender and social inclusion changes, having indicators to track social changes remains a challenge.</p>	<p>The Social Analysis and Action approach allowed us to identify social barriers at the community level and the areas of change to be prioritized. The approach provided us with simple tools to measure change.</p> <p>Establishing the various mapping of the actors facilitates the reflection at the level of the teams and the stakeholders with whom we work. We will disseminate these results to stimulate discussions.</p>
<p>It is still difficult for the different actors, including project staff, to reconcile behavior change activities with the use of WASH services. The traditional conception of behavior change resulting from information and communication persists in individual and collective beliefs, sometimes making it difficult to implement more innovative strategies at different levels with other development stakeholders, public institutions, and especially private sector collaboration.</p>	<p>Continued activities with iDE will help us move forward in linking behavior change with service use. We are also strengthening marketing activities with water service providers and involving more VLSAs, who are generally more receptive to adopting products and services that improve their lives. We will accompany these early adopters to influence their neighbors and relatives for the ripple effect.</p> <p>The current good results demonstrate the effectiveness of the approaches and the importance of an integrated approach. We will strengthen the sharing of lessons learned.</p> <p>As part of the transition, RANO WASH will systematically organize a sharing meeting with UNICEF on activities with iDE to ensure continuity even after RANO WASH.</p>

Challenges	Modification / Resolution
<p>Transferring water services from community-based management to private management</p> <p>The transfer of community management to private management poses several challenges. The individuals who manage the water services are the first to refuse change for fear of losing their interest even if the services are not working well. The NGOs that set up the infrastructure are also the entities that manage it. And there are different types of social conflicts behind the infrastructures (water management, those who have allocated money for the infrastructure, ...). Few people and entities are familiar with the laws in place on communal project management. The transfer of management thus becomes a long process.</p>	<p>We have strengthened the inter-ministerial partnership for a common understanding of the laws and the approach adopted. We have also empowered all relevant authorities, such as the Governor of the Region, the Chief District, the Commune, and especially the MEAH and DREAH.</p> <p>We are documenting the process to serve as a tool for the sector, as it is a great challenge for the water sector in Madagascar. Then, we will include it in the PPP toolbox.</p>
<p>Resource mobilization for the WASH sector:</p> <p>Funding remains a major barrier to increasing access to services. The Project and private operators mostly fund the PPP model.</p>	<p>The Project continues to influence the public and private sectors on the added value of PPP for user-centered, inclusive, and sustainable WASH services. Capacity building of Communes on fiscal mobilization and engagement of local private operators is beginning to bear fruit.</p> <p>The Project supports DREAHs in organizing events such as the WASH fair meeting with stakeholders such as Chambers of Commerce and Industry, GEM/GFEM, banks, and MFIs to publicize WASH business opportunities.</p> <p>But most importantly, the Project contributes to advocating the importance of strong government leadership for successful private sector engagement.</p> <p>RANO WASH shares the PPP model with potential donors and investment/funding mechanisms at the national and international levels. In Q2, two sessions were organized with the IFC of the World Bank and Uptime. The latter is providing funding to WSPs for result-based contracts for water supply services. Larger matchmaking events will be organized in Q3.</p>
NEW CHALLENGES	MEASURES TAKEN
<p>Turnover at MEAH/DREAHs: With difficult situations (COVID-19, Madagascar's water problem), WASH sector governance faces several challenges. Frequent change at the national and regional levels at the MEAH level only complicates and slows down ongoing activities.</p>	<p>The Project has always tried to work with the entire directorate team, national or regional, to ensure more skills transfer to a team, not just to the directors. The Project focuses on developing training and course modules to ensure approaches and tools continue to be used.</p> <p>The Project has also documented its achievements with MEAH and DREAHs. One of</p>

Challenges	Modification / Resolution
	<p>the biggest paradigm shifts is the engagement of the private sector in implementing PPP tools for drinking water services. RANO WASH is developing the PPP toolkit on its website for the moment. Still, it will transfer it to public websites such as MEAH and EDBM in the next quarters to ensure continuity and make it available to all actors in the sector.</p>
<p>Natural Hazards: Q2.22 was marked by three cyclones, heavy rainfall, and bad weather. Many Communes of intervention were inaccessible. Private operators and households had difficulty rehabilitating damage caused by wind or heavy flooding.</p>	<p>RANO WASH has actively participated in Cluster meetings at the regional level to have timely information and share situations in the Project's intervention Communes. Participation in these meetings has contributed to the rapid escalation of information to enable emergency actors to respond to imminent needs.</p>
<p>Insecurity related to kidnapping peaked in January and February, with some confirmed cases in the Alaotra Mangoro region. RANO WASH had to interrupt activities in some Communes for the safety of the project team.</p>	<p>The Project's mobilization of regional authorities, security forces, and stakeholders in the area has resulted in the systematization of information sharing on suspected cases of kidnapping and insecurity in general with law enforcement.</p>
<p>Change in USAID subcontractor approval requirement (change from DUNS to UEI online system)</p> <p>Difficulty in obtaining the UEI needed to obtain USAID approval for the WSP construction contract delayed the installation of the water systems and impacted the outcomes for access to water services. It also impacts the budgetary performance of the Project.</p>	<p>The Project field team members reviewed strategies to meet drinking water targets. Instead of starting construction, which will require time for contracting and contingencies during construction, the Project is opting to provide WSPs with materials for extensions to existing systems. Underserved villages will benefit from these interventions.</p>
<p>Data collection during the transition phase of the Project</p> <p>Difficulty in ensuring data completeness without the presence of project staff in the Project's intervention communes</p>	<p>For the last two quarters of FY22, the RANO WASH MEAL team has implemented a data loop that is not dependent on the project staff. However, we know the control limitations of all stakeholders involved in this data reporting system. We will hire part-time staff to coach these agents in the operationalization of the system to ensure that it continues beyond the Project's life.</p> <p>As part of its transition, the Project has equipped the DREAHs and MEAHs with equipment such as telephones, STEAHs, and staff to facilitate implementation and supervision.</p>

3 MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND LEARNING (MEAL)

3.1 MEAL System Update

DASHBOARD QUARTERLY UPDATE

This quarter, the MEAL team updated the Power BI (PBI)¹¹ dashboard with the achievements of Q2.FY2023 period, from data reported by STEAHs and WSPs, supported by the Transition Monitoring Agents.

Three indicators have been updated in the PBI, and six indicators in total have been updated in the IPTT, as presented below:

- 1.2 (HL.8.4-1) Value of new funding mobilized to the water and sanitation sectors as a result of USG assistance;
- 2.1.2 - # of new water and sanitation services provided with RANO WASH support;
- 2.2.1 (HL.8.1-1) # of people gaining access to basic drinking water services as a result of USG assistance;
- 2.2.2 (HL.8.1-2) # of people gaining access to safely managed drinking water services as a result of USG assistance;
- 2.2.5 (HL.8.5-1) # of people benefiting from the adoption and implementation of measures to improve water resources management as a result of USG assistance;
- 2.2.1.2 (HL.8.1-4) # of institutional settings gaining access to basic drinking water services as a result of USG assistance.

MEAL TRANSITION AND CLOSE OUT SYSTEM

During this quarter, the project coordination team recruited seven Transition Monitoring Agents, one per region. Their role is to support the reporting of the latest achievements in the field and to strengthen the operationalization of the MEAL - DHIS2-SE&AM transition system at the commune level.

These agents are former project staff from the regional implementing partners, with a sound understanding of the project and a good capacity to support the STEAHs, WSPs and DREAH.

Figure 9 presents the profile of these TMAs, recruited to support the

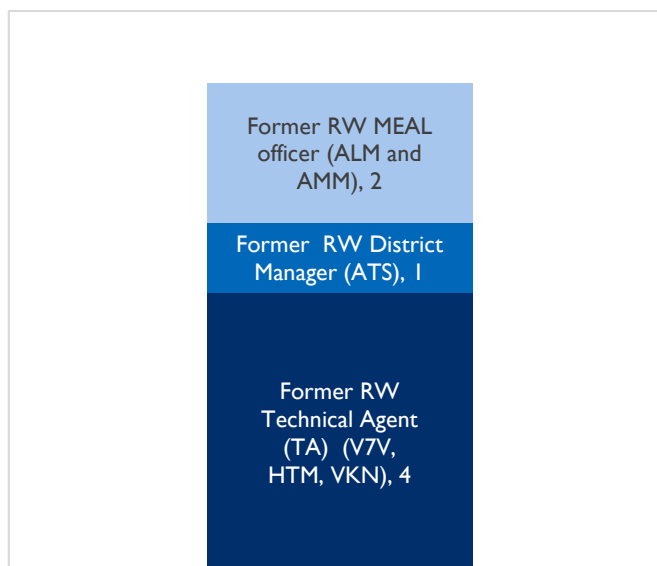


Figure 7. Transition Monitoring Agents profile

11

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoibWZjYjYODitMTY3NS00ZjY0LTg1NmEtNDA2MmY1ODUzODA4IiwidCI6ImI4MGMzMDhjLWQwOGQtNGlwNy05MTVjLTExYTkyZDljYzZiZCIsImMiOjE5>

operationalization of the project's MEAL transition system and support the 250 Communes of RANO WASH, including STEAH, WSPs, and DREAH. All TMAs are equipped with tablets.

SE&AM UPDATE (DHIS2)

The implementation of the project's transitional data circuit, hybrid with the national monitoring and evaluation system, has been initiated and has shown good results, despite various constraints, such as the non-functionality of certain forms, time constraints, difficulty in accessing and collaborating with the respective managers, and the lack of accountability at the level of certain teams at the Commune, DREAH, and WSPs.,

Until the end of March 2023, two forms have been operational, and others are being maintained at the Ministry. Most of the information is collected from the forms in printed versions and using MS Excel.

Following the compilations, we found that 40% of the Communes have provided data from the physical version of the forms and transcribed them into an Excel file. From this evidence, some Communes managed to enter and synchronize data in the DHIS2-SE&AM, which are distributed as follows:

- 26% of municipalities have submitted aggregated data to DHIS2
- 27% of municipalities have submitted tracker data to DHIS2

Compared to the previous quarter, the number of Communes that entered data in DHIS2 during this quarter has increased by 12.6%.

In addition, to advance in updating the SE&AM database, RANO WASH achievements for past periods, i.e. registered in the project database before September 2022, have been transcribed into a template in an MS Excel format shared with the MEAH, corresponding to the DHIS2 form.

During Q2, at the level of each respective region, the remaining regional staff continued to support the operationalization of the system as the finalization of the donation of tablets and smartphones to the Communes (3 in the Alaotra Mangoro region, 4 in the Vakinankaratra region and 1 in the Vatovavy Fitovinany region), support and accompaniment of DREAH and GIC.

Regarding the contribution of consortium members in the continuation of support to the operationalization of the DHIS2-SE&AM system, following the different meetings of the consortium members' program managers, the following opportunities are known:

- WaterAid continues to support the Ministry, particularly in strengthening sector governance and operationalizing the SE&AM platform
- CRS will contribute to improving the performance of the SE&AM system by supplementing the remaining 16GB of RAM for the server. This RAM will be active at the server level for an allocation period of 20 months.
- The Ministry declares that it is ready to ensure the continuation of the payment of the hosting and RAM lease of the server.

Activities planned for the next quarter

- Continue support to STEAH, WSPs, and DREAH in the operationalization of the system while respecting the circuits and adequate practices;
- monitoring the updating of forms at the Ministry level;
- support of the ministry in the creation of accounts for DREAH and PTF in the platform;
- Upgrade the RAM of the DHIS2-SE&AM server to 32GB

- Monitoring the effectiveness of the data entry of RANO WASH achievements in the SE&AM database.

3.2 Final Evaluation Report

The evaluation report has been developed and finalized this quarter and, at the time of reporting, has been submitted to USAID in April.

3.3 Cost share MEAL data reconciliation

RANO WASH cost share has been divided into three categories:

- (1) **Cash contributions** come from water service providers' co-investments (15-30%) in the construction of water supply systems, as part of the Build-Invest-Operate and Maintain PPP model promoted by RANO WASH, from the users' water connections (private or shared connections), and non-USG funding (including Charity Water under CRS, unrestricted funding from WaterAid, and AFD under CARE).
- (2) **In-kind contributions** are mainly the households purchasing or building improved latrines adapted to the local context.
- (3) **Donated goods and services** may include items such as expendable or use of equipment, contributed operating costs, training, and workshop that must be integral of an approved project.

The reconciliation of the data on the financial report and the project database at the level of the MEAL team, concerned water users, and in-kind contribution related to the purchase or built latrines. The process was finalized at the end of this quarter. As of September 30, 2022, the project database was the reference for computing the number of latrines at \$21, the unit price for the valuation applied by each consortium member. (cf. Annex 5 cost share guidelines)

RANO WASH considered the list provided by the WSPs for computing the water connections at \$24 the unit price of the first 100 water users. After the first 100 users, the certified list provided by the WSPs served as an invoice for recording by each consortium member. Each organization has performed the data reconciliation between MEAL and the finance team for reporting, including the supporting document for filing.

3.4 Learning and finalization of archiving

Webinars for dissemination of RANO WASH resource documents

As part of the closure of the project, webinars were organized from March 21 to 24 to disseminate RANO WASH learning resources.

The themes were based on the project components and built upon the capitalization seminar organized in September 2022.

All tools, resources, webinar presentations and replays, and relevant documents capitalized in the project framework are available on the project website and will remain posted after the project.

www.ranowash.org, or <https://care.mg/ranowash/>

The themes covered during the webinars are as follows:

- **WASH Sector Governance and Monitoring:**
 - Strengthening government leadership for sector development
 - Strengthening communal ownership of WASH sector development
 - Strengthening community participation to improve services

- **Private sector engagement:**
 - PPP for potable water services
 - Drinking water services coverage strategy
 - WASH infrastructure that is environmentally sound and resilient to climatic hazards
 - Market-based sanitation model
- **Behavior change and WASH service use:**
 - Behavior Change Strategy:
 - Institutional Sustainability of WASH Services
- **Gender and Social Inclusion:**
 - Menstrual hygiene promotion
 - Gender Mainstreaming Strategy in the WASH Sector
- **Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Accountability:**
 - Dynamics of the MEAL system in the RANO WASH project

Archiving documents

Before the end of the project, with the end of the consortium members' sub-agreements, important MEAL documents, including the project's learning products, were archived in the dedicated MEAL section on the Project SharePoint.

In addition, for future consultation of the project's achievements, the [dashboard PBI](#)¹² and the [interactive map](#)¹³ with the distribution of the water points remain available.

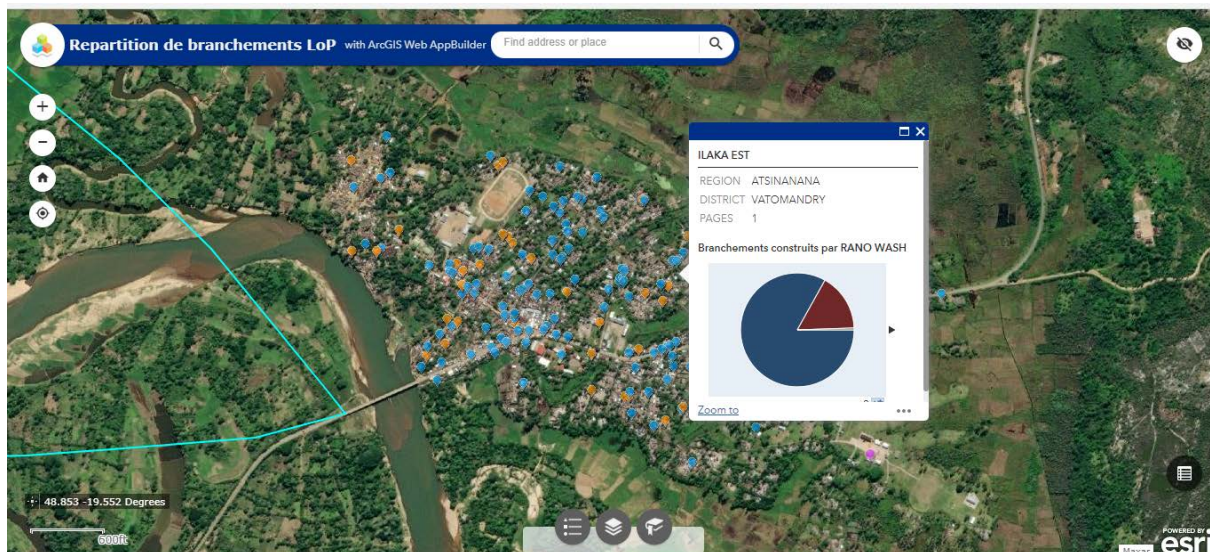


Figure 8. Screenshot of GIS interactive map, managed by CRS

3.5 Accountability to people served : Green Line

This quarter, the Project received six calls from the Green Line. 67% of these calls came from the Amoron'i Mania region, 17% from the Vatovavy Fitovinany region, and another 17% from the Vakinankaratra region.

These calls are mostly from the ATEAHs requesting information on the distribution of smartphones/tablets provided at the Communes level, requests for replacement of damaged

¹²

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojNWZjYjlyODItMTY3NS00ZjY0LTg1NmEtNDA2MmY1ODUzODA4IiwidCI6ImI4MGMzMDhjLWQwOGQtNGlwNy05MTVjLTExYTk5ZDIjYzZiZCIsImMiOiF9>

¹³ <https://crsorg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5ef5eca5059a4be3bbd2e415de1b8bd0>

smartphones, and complaints on the fact that the phone remains at the level of the Mayor. After following up and working with the team of each region involved, all requests were processed.

Figure 11 below presents the distribution of these calls by type of calls.

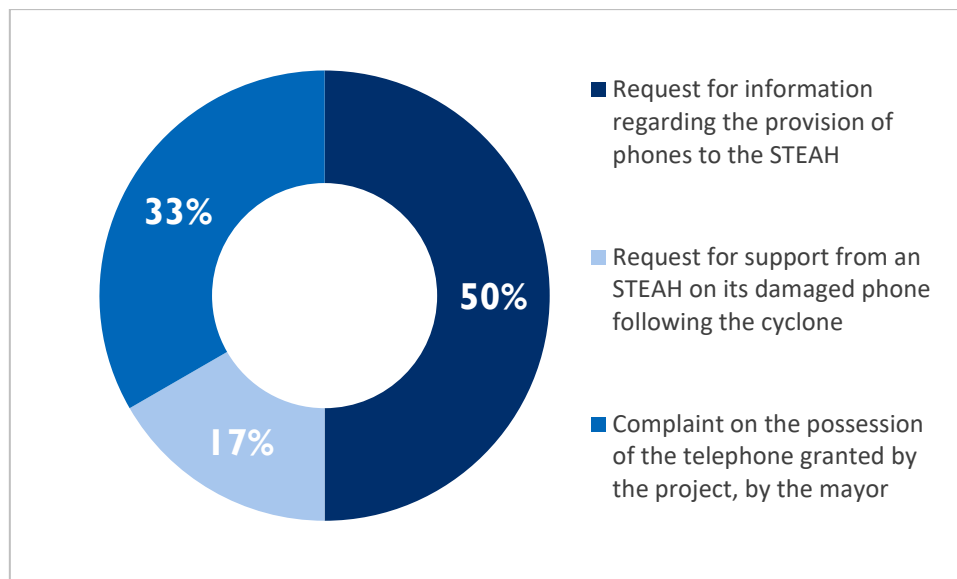


Figure 9. Green Line Breakdown of calls by motive

4 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Management

This quarter, the Project team continued implementing the management transition and close-out plan (Annex 8 & 9). All regional offices are now closed. The PCT has adopted a hybrid management model, combining in-person meetings and remote work.

The graph below illustrates the progressive withdrawal of project staff until June 2023: starting with field agents, then zone supervisors, regional team members, and the central project coordination office. The Sub agreement of the consortium members ended in March 2023; the last months will be devoted to the administrative subgrants closure and final reporting by the Project key personnel.

Personnel

- End of assignment from Rodolphe Rakoto-Harisoa, Senior governance advisor (WaterAid)
- End of assignment of Amede Rafidimanantsoa, Senior Private Sector Advisor (CRS)
- End of assignment of Jean Dominique Razafindraleka, MEAL Manager (CRS)

Rural Access to New Opportunities in Water, Sanitation, And Hygiene
RANO WASH FY2023 Quarter 2 Report

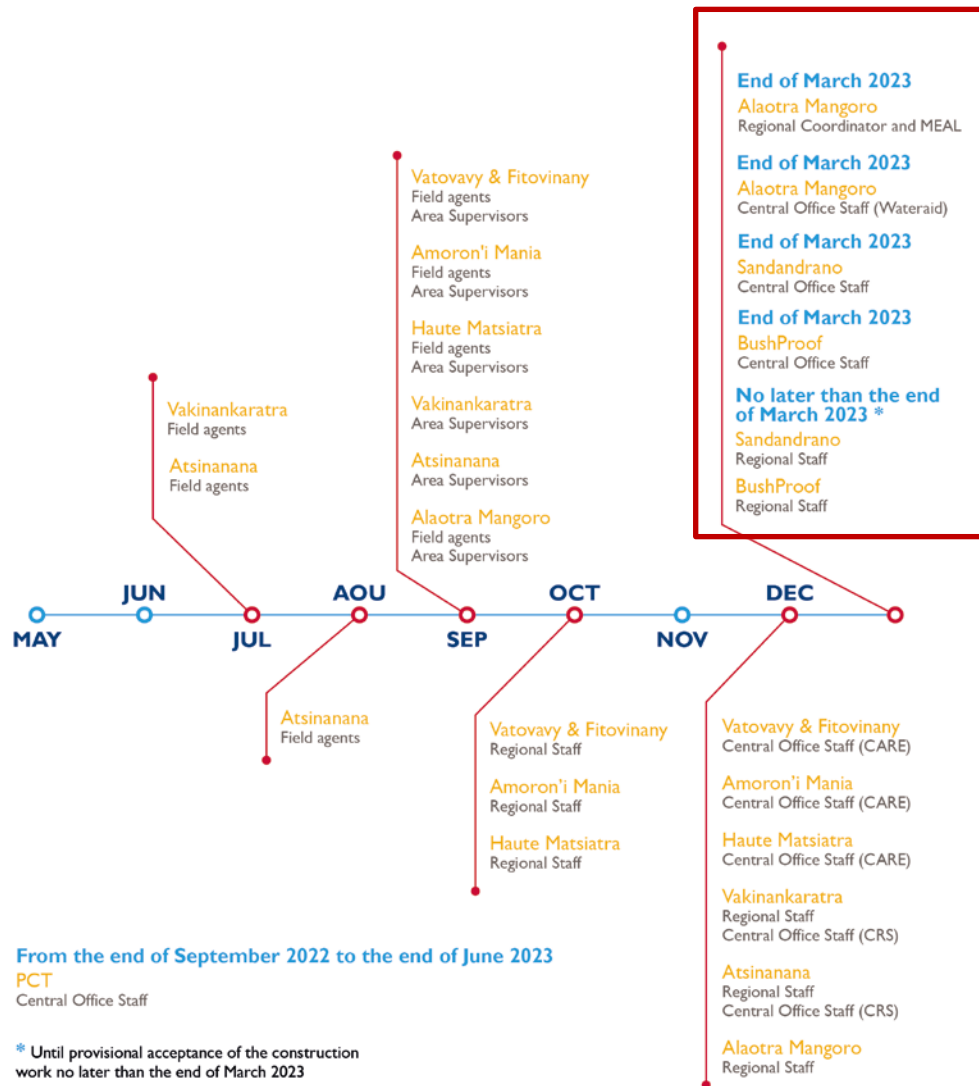


Figure 10: Phase out of the RANO WASH project team

Project management and coordination highlights from this quarter include the following:

- COP-DCOP/MEAL Programmatic and Technical Meeting – Weekly
- Learning/Capitalization meeting - Weekly
- COP-DAF Finance/Operations Meeting – Weekly
- Project Coordination Team Meeting – Monthly

Coordination

RANO WASH continues to engage with USAID Monthly and GoM partners at the national level. As part of the COVID-19 coordination, RANO WASH continues attending periodic meetings with USAID HPN partners.

Events and Visits

Some of the more noteworthy visits/events during this quarter (excluding those at the regional level) are presented in Annex 14.

5 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

RANO WASH's total expenditure in Q2 FY 2023 is \$883,001 representing a burn rate of 93% compared to the accrual of \$953,406. The total Year to Date expenses of \$1,803,433 as of Q2. FY2023 corresponds to a burn rate of 84% against the total budget of \$2,157,304 for FY2023.

RANO WASH closely monitors the construction line item to finalize before the close-out period the final payment. RANO WASH has a \$4,379,174 NCE budget for construction; the expenses to date of \$4,209,395 represent 96% in comparison to the NCE budget of construction line item.

RANO WASH exceeded cost share requirements for FY2023, with a total contribution of \$451,433 for this quarter Q2. FY23, representing 144% against the budget FY23 of \$314,177.

RANO WASH also submitted the financial report (SF425) for this quarter to USAID, reporting a cumulative expenditure of **\$29,484,468**, representing a burn rate of **98%** compared to the NCE budget of \$30,000,000 and a cumulative cost-share of **\$4,360,705**, representing **145%** of \$3,000,000 per the Cooperative agreement.

Annex 4. RANO WASH Finance & Cost Share Q2.23 Update provides further details.

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- ANNEX 3. Communication and Media Update Q2.23
- ANNEX 4. RANO WASH Finance & Cost Share Q2.23 Update
- ANNEX 5. Cost Share Guidelines
- ANNEX 6. RANO WASH Administration and Disposal Plan Q2.23
- ANNEX 7. Program Implementation Plan – Q2.23 Update
- ANNEX 8. RANO WASH Transition Plan
- ANNEX 9. MEAL Transition Plan
- ANNEX 10. RANO WASH Project Performance Review Q2.23
- ANNEX 11. Technical Note on Estimation Method for Access to Water
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- ANNEX 28. Water Quality Test in all Water Supply Systems Q2.23
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- ANNEX 33. Handwashing In Schools – Preliminary Results Brief
- ANNEX 34. Gender Marker Endline



RANO WASH / Photos : Dahery Razaka



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