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**MADAGASCAR**

# SUCCESS STORY

## THE WASH-FRIENDLY INFLUENCE

### People learn from WASH-friendly health centers



Above, Madame Marthe with her new tippy taps she set up under her plum tree.

[Photo: C. Thompson/AED]

The USAID/Hygiene Improvement Project (HIP) is now helping to set up “WASH-friendly” community health centers (CSB) around Madagascar. These health centers will serve as an example of proper hygiene for diarrhea prevention while promoting the three basic water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices: hand washing with soap, drinking safe water, and using clean latrines. The goal is for the clients to observe and do these improved practices at the health center and then practice the same habits in their homes and communities.

At the CSB Vatovory in Ambositra, health workers took action after their WASH training with HIP and set up a *tippy tap* hand washing station right outside their clinic. Tippy taps are made out of used plastic bottles with holes punched in their caps that act as a faucet when a bottle filled with water is hung from a rail or nail with string and then “tipped” over. They are very cheap and easy to use, and they conserve more water than hand washing with tap water, or a cup and bucket.

In the beginning of August, Ambositra resident Madame Marthe brought her 11-month-old daughter to the CSB Vatovory for a vaccination. That day the nurse gave a presentation about WASH practices and demonstrated how to use the tippy taps. Marthe was impressed. She thought it was such a good idea, and when she went home she set up tippy taps in her front yard near the latrine for her family to use. She tied bottles to her plum tree and set out soap in an empty yogurt container. “After using the latrine you must wash your hands well with soap,” she says about the message she learned from WASH-friendly CSB Vatovory.

Marthe sells honey at her home for a living, and buyers come to her house each day. They are sure to see the tippy taps in her yard and ask questions. This is how the WASH influence starts at the health clinic and filters out to the rest of the community.

HIP is also helping the local *fokontany* (community) to set up WASH-friendly schools and WASH-friendly “taxi brousse” stations and markets.