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HIP HYGIENE IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT

SUCCESS STORY

AMBATOKELY REMEMBERS WASH TRAINING

**More Than Two Years
after HIP Intervention
Community Takes over
Water Treatment
Management and Takes
on Latrine Improvement**



[Photos: Shahbaz Fawbush (HIP)]



Members of the Chateau d'eau committee continue to maintain the Aquasure water treatment tank provided as part of a USAID-supported pilot.

In the community of Ambatokely many children used to get sick with diarrhea from drinking dirty water. Because the water in this community is very turbid, it could not be adequately treated using the locally available water treatment product. In 2007 the USAID Hygiene Improvement Project (HIP) partnered with the manufacturer of Aquasure (an alternative chlorine-based water treatment product that works well in muddy and heavily contaminated water) to provide water purification infrastructure for this community. Aquasure provided a 400-liter water treatment tank and HIP conducted water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) training for the villagers and helped establish a “Chateau d'eau” committee to manage the newly installed tank. As part of the pilot, Aquasure agreed to cover the cost of the tank and perform maintenance for free for one year; the villagers agreed to purchase the water treatment tablets and subsequently take over the maintenance costs after one year.

So how has the community fared two and a half years after its HIP intervention? Villagers of the community of 22 households served by the Chateau d'eau noticed an improvement in their health right after the water treatment began and the three key WASH behaviors—safe storage and treatment of drinking water, safe feces disposal, and hand washing with soap, and—became common practice. “We can't remember anyone being sick in the last two and a half years,” said Virginia, a member of the Chateau d'eau committee.

The committee has since taken over the maintenance of the Chateau d'eau. It found that the 50 Ariary (two and a half cents) it charges the villagers per 12 liter bucket is not sufficient to cover all the costs of running and maintaining the tank. And the committee is reluctant to increase the price of a bucket since the price is already five times more expensive than the water provided by public utilities in town. So committee members are raising funds by holding bake sales and growing extra crops in their fields in the off season to supplement the Chateau d'eau fund. And in doing so the committee has been able to safeguard the community's access to clean drinking water.



[Photo: Shahbaz Fawbush (HIP)]

WASH training introduced the community to improved latrine options like concrete SanPlats (above) and easy to create hand washing stations such as these tippy taps (below).



[Photo: Shahbaz Fawbush (HIP)]

As a result of their successful experience from this water project, the community decided to address other health issues. Recently the latrines of several families in the community became full. Remembering their WASH training, they wanted to build new improved latrines using the SanPlat latrine slabs they learned about. The families approached Aquasure and HIP for funding to partially subsidize the cost of constructing the new latrines; because of their success with the Chateau d'eau, the project was approved. Thus eight families now share two new improved latrines built with SanPlat washable concrete slabs. They also installed water saving "tippy tap" devices made from discarded drinking water bottles to enable family members to wash their hands after using the latrines. Another practice learned during their WASH training.