

# Monthly Activity Report - December 2005

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## I. Panjia Project

1. **Nutrition Program:** Three Nutrition Programs were performed in December 2005. They were;

Date	Site Name	DTW #	Male	Female	Total
05-Dec	Had Baliaghata	7	30	45	75
06-Dec	Manderdanga East	6	20	30	50
11-Dec	Manderdanga West	8	25	35	60
Total Participants			75	110	185

Most of the female could learn about the procedure of cooking *kichuri* with *dal* and vitamin-rich vegetables. They could also learn that they are the owners of the deep tube well. On the same day of the nutrition program AAN arranged an option handover ceremony. On 5<sup>th</sup> December UNO himself distributed a handover certificate in presence of Union AMC Chairman and Ward AMC members in Had village.

## 2. AMC Meetings

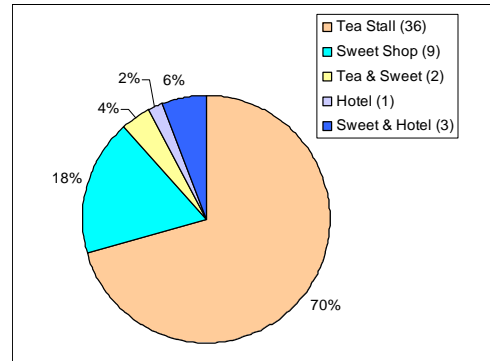
**Upazila AMC Meeting:** On 14<sup>th</sup> December Upazila AMC organized an AMC meeting where AAN presented “Panjia-1” activities and future programs for the next 3 years. 44 Participants of Upazila AMC members, representatives of local NGOs and Water Supply Committees, attended the meeting. A Dutch student attended to observe the function of AMC, too. Everybody appreciated AAN’s work. They expressed their gratitude to AAN for the activities so far done and said that a coordination meeting is essential to distribute safe water in highly contaminated areas. UNO himself requested to start a piped water supply system in the Keshabpur Municipality area.

**Union AMC Meeting:** On 21<sup>st</sup> December Panjia Union AMC meeting was held with AMC members of Ward #9 where there were 23 participants. AAN made a similar presentation which was performed earlier at the Upazila AMC meeting. We also showed various pictures of some arsenicosis symptoms there. Union chairman offered his cooperation for all types of motivational work in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase.

**Ward AMC Meeting:** On the same day (21<sup>st</sup>) AAN organized a joint Ward AMC meeting with Ward #1 and #2 where 19 persons attended. In the meeting Chairman of each users committee also attended. We explained our total activities so far done and future plans as well. Chairmen of the two Ward AMCs asked AAN to make their villages arsenic-free by supplying more safe water options. Chairman of Garbhanga Middle para Water Supply Committee placed a request to AAN to develop the water quality in their deep tube well where there was smell.

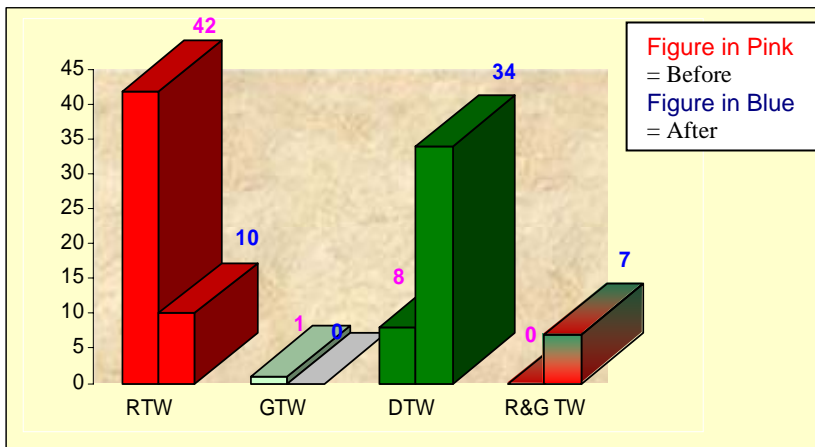
At both Union and Ward AMC meetings we requested all of the AMC members to help AAN to find arsenicosis patients in AAN's list of "suspected patients" since AAN had a plan to conduct medical camps and house-to-house visits in the Wards #1, 2 and 3 area on 24<sup>th</sup> December and in the Ward #4, 5, 6, and 9 area on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**3. Tea Stalls Survey:** AAN surveyed 51 shops located in two crowded Bazars of Panjia Union on 8<sup>th</sup> December. The survey areas were Garbhanga and Panjia Bazar. When activities started we found many villagers were taking tea and sweets regularly at tea stalls and others while those owners used arsenic-contaminated water. AAN carried out various types of awareness programs



using a flipchart, photos of various arsenicosis symptoms, songs and *gombhira* from middle of July to November 2005. The survey was designed to see whether any changes were made in their behavior of using water through our awareness-raising activities.

There were 51 shops which are classified into 5 types; namely, (1) tea stalls, (2) sweets shops, (3) tea and sweets shops, (4) hotels (= restaurants), and (5) hotels also serving sweets. Tea stalls covered 70% of all. Sumon, Aklima, and Al-Amin visited those shops.



The chart on the left shows the behavioral changes made in water fetching. Previously 42 shops used red marked tube well water (RTW), one shop green marked tube well (GTW), and 8 shops deep tube wells (DTW). In December, at the time of the survey, the number of

users of RTW remarkably decreased to 10 from 42, and that of DTW users increased to 34 from 8. The one who used to take water from GTW also switched to DTW somehow. Before there were no user who used sometimes RTW and sometimes GTW, but seven shop owners were found using both RTW and GTW. Although every AMC appreciated AAN's awareness activities, it is a new subject to reduce the number of users of contaminated water to "0" before it becomes too late.

**4. Withdrawal of AAN Filter:** AAN distributed household arsenic removal filters (AAN Filter) in August to 25 families with arsenicosis patients who were identified during the medical camping period in June 2005. While monitoring its water quality we found that 13 filters were not performing well though others were running well

with proper maintenance by the users (as reported in “Activity Report - October 2005”). In this month, we withdrew all those ineffective filters and the ones which people were not using because they did not like the taste of filtered water. We encouraged them to drink arsenic safe water from the nearest DTW.

- 5. Medical Camp:** A 2-day medical camp was organized by AAN on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> December. It was for those arsenicosis patients suspected by our Patient Support Coordinator and Field Workers to be confirmed by medical experts. Dr. Shubodh Kumar Kundu, UHFPO of Keshabpur, and Dr. Nazmul Ahsan form Civil Surgeon’s Office, Jessore, conducted the medical camp.

There were about 145 suspected patients in Panjia Union, 6 in Sufalakathi Union and 2 in Mangolkot Union, 153 in total. It should be noted that while cultural programs were going on some villagers came to watch them from neighboring Unions.

The two doctors visited most of the patients’ houses with Health Workers and project staff. Doctors examined 138 people (121 from the lists of suspected patients including 5 in Sufalakathi and 1 in Mangolkot Unions and 17 newcomers) and identified 77 people as having skin lesions of arsenicosis. Doctors suggested that 39 patients should be provided with medicines and together with some others should be monitored carefully. The six people suspected of arsenicosis were in fact not identified as patients by the doctors.



Accordingly, the number of patients in Panjia Union was confirmed as 140 by medical experts through two medical camps in June and December 2005.

We also opened a medical camp in two crowded bazars on those days. All Ward and Union AMCs supported AAN to conduct the program.

## II. Supply of Safe Water Devices

- 1. Fenua PSF in Comilla District:** The construction of a PSF at a madrasa/orphanage in Fenua village, Comilla, which had started on 27 November, was completed on 17 December with the filling of gravels and sand. It should be able to supply safe drinking water to the orphanage and the community before the Eid-ul-Azha which starts on/around 10 January 2006.

2. **Chunakhali GSF in Chapai Nawabganj District:** At the request of a Japanese researchers group, AAN started the construction work of a gravel sand filter (GSF) in Chunakhali village on 23 December. The GSF is to be attached to a tube well (250 feet) to remove arsenic in the raw water. The operation & maintenance training is scheduled for 27 January 2006 and the construction is therefore expected to be over by mid-January.

### **III. General**

1. **Submission of FD-6:** An application for extension of the current Panjia Project was submitted on 11 December in the form FD-6 covering the next three years of 2006 to 2008 to the NGO Affairs Bureau.
2. **Activity Report 2005:** Not much progress was made during December due to extra work requested by JAMP.
3. **Visit of Ms. Natsuko Ganzawa of RGAG:** She stayed in Jessore from 25 December and gave training on geology to AAN staff and young members of Samta and Marua Arsenic Mitigation Committees.