

Asia Arsenic Network

Activity Report - April 2006

Date: 30th April 2006

Reported by: Md. Abu Shamim Khan, Operation Manager
Md. Al-Amin Mollah, Admin & Accounts Officer
&
Sayed Sunny, Admin & Accounts Manager

Panjia Project (Phase -2)

1. Bidyanandakati Union Arsenic Mitigation Committee Meeting

It was held on 3rd April at Union Parishad, attended by 22 people. Firstly AAN Operation Manager thanked Chairman and all UAMC members for arranging the meeting. He then explained AAN's current and future activities including the safe water supply plan by Rotary, focusing on tube well screening and the recruitment procedure of field workers.

All the AMC members were very happy to know AAN's implementation plan. Union AMC Chairman of Bidyanandakati, Ms. Rabia Begum, told the Ward members to arrange Ward AMC/village meetings and cooperate for tube well screening and Users Committee formation.

One of the topics at the UAMC meeting was about a surface water treatment system, but it was pointed out that surface water is not available in the area. One person told the meeting that geological layers might be very critical for DTW at some places.

2. Ward AMC Meetings in Bidyanandakati Union

After the UAMC meeting on 3rd April, four Ward AMC/village meetings were held in Bidyanandakati Union in April as shown in the table below. At each meeting AAN first explained its activities and discussed about the role of Ward AMC and the importance of community participation in arsenic mitigation activities. At the end of the meeting AAN selected 2 persons as field workers in each Ward from several candidates recommended by each Ward AMC Chairman.

Date	W #	Time	No. of Participants	Place
04-04-06	3	10:00	15	Boga R.N. secondary school
04-04-06	4	04:00	13	Mominpur Reg. primary school
05-04-06	5	12:00	10	Titabajitpur Reg. primary school
06-04-06	9	10:00	25	Baushala Dakhil Madrasha

3. Field Worker Training for TW Screening in Bidyanandakati

AAN arranged a training program for the selected 8 field workers on 8th April at Biddanadakati Union parishod. The training subjects included basic information on arsenic, how to check arsenic in water by a field kit, how to fill in the tube well screening format, how to find arsenicosis patients, how to aware people, how to record the location on the mouza map, and so on.

4. Result of TW Screening

During the period of 9th to 30th April, the tube well screening was carried out in 8 villages of 3 Wards of Bidyanandakati Union; namely, Ward #3 (Nehalpur, Baga, and Rajakati), Ward #5 (Kakilakhali, Titabajitpur, and Teghari), and Ward #4 (Mominpur and Mahadebpur).

The field workers collect information from owner/caretaker about the tube wells, take GPS data, check arsenic of tube well water by NIPSOM field kit, and dot the TW location with its arsenic concentration on a mouza map. They paint tube wells red if the water contains arsenic exceeding 0.05mg/L, the Bangladesh standard, and green if arsenic concentration is lower than 0.05 mg/L. The colors help villagers know their tube well water is safe or not. Field workers show them photographs of various symptoms of arsenicosis and make a list of suspected patients. They also explain some ideas on alternative safe water devices such as a pond sand filter (PSF), dug well sand filter, a deep tub



well and rain water harvesting.

Painting a tube well red, again...

5. Awareness Raising Program in Panjia Union

The flipchart performance was conducted at a total 44 places in Wards #6, #7 and #8 of Panjia Union during 4th April to 22nd April 2006. About 2,635 people participated in the campaign. Details of the campaign are summarized in the table below.

Period	W #	Village	Place	Male	Female	Student Male	Student Female	Child	Total
4/4--10/4	6	Madardanga	Para/17	109	416	0	0	160	685
			School/4	0	0	270	263	0	533
11/4-13/4	7	Rajnagar Bankabarsi	Para/7	55	178	0	0	96	329
			School/2	0	0	101	116	0	217
16/4-22/4	8	Brammandanga, Nepakati and Sataiskati	Para/10	48	170	0	0	114	332
			School/4	0	0	295	244	0	539
4/4-22/4		Total		212	764	666	623	370	2635

5. AMC & Village Meetings in Panjia Union

To install “Rotary DTW” in Panjia Union, Ward AMC/villagers meeting was organized as summarized in the table below. At each meeting AAN first explained the tube well screening results including the number of suspected arsenicosis patients. Then AMC members and villagers were requested to join the PRA program for site selection.

Date	Ward	Place	No. of Participants	No. of DTW planned
4 th April	7	Rajinagar Bankabarsi Primary School	34	3
5 th April	8	Kamalapur Primary School	20	3
8 th April	6	Panjia Union Parishad	30	6

On 25th April, Panjia Union Parishad Chairman and UP member of Ward #5 visited an AAN DTW site and they were pleased to see the quality of AAN work.

6. Construction of Safe Water Options in Panjia Union

The Users Committees started the construction of the safe water options after they received a subsidy, 90% of the construction cost. AAN’s Site Engineer helped them purchase necessary materials and supervised the construction work. The following DTWs were installed in Panjia Union in April:

DTW No.	W #	Place	Drilling Period	Depth	Sealing
Fukuda & Higo	7	Rajinagar Bankabarshi South Sardar Para	3/4 – 11/4	700 ft	Done
Rotary No. 1	1	Imannagar Gazipara	15/4 – 23/4	800 ft	Failed
Rotary No. 2	1	Panch Bankabarshi East Sardar Para	19/4 – 24/4	695 ft	Done
Rotary No. 3	7	Rajinagar Bankabarshi East Sardar Para	22/4 – 26/4	640 ft	Done
Rotary No. 4	1	Mandardanga West Gazi Para	24/4 – 29/4	752 ft	Done

Option Follow-up

1. Chunakhali GSF

In January this year, at the request of a Japanese researchers group, AAN constructed a gravel sand filter (GSF), a unit to remove arsenic in tube well water, in Chunakhali village of Chapai Nawabganj district. Although it is not an “AAN option” we were asked by the group to monitor water quality of the GSF and to carry out maintenance work, as and when necessary.

On 21st April we visited the village and collected water samples from the tube well, gravel tank-1, outlet, sand filter and supply tap for arsenic test by AAS in AAN laboratory. On the following day we cleaned the inlet chamber, gravel tanks and outlet chamber. We also washed all the gravels by tube well water by the help of 5 workers and scraped off the top sand from the sand filter surface.

Medical Support and Arsenicosis Patients

- 1. Rotary Health Centre Jessore:** On 5th April AAN visited Rotary Club of Jessore who runs a hospital called Rotary Health Centre Jessore with a view to establishing a relationship for treatment of arsenicosis patients. Dr. Ekhlalur Rahman of Yamagata Dhaka Friendship Hospital made a follow-up visit on 16th April to examine the facilities and equipment of the Rotary Health Centre.
- 2. Medical Check-up:** While he was in Jessore on 16th April Dr. Ekhlalur Rahman kindly examined 11 patients who came to AAN Jessore office from Samta, Marua and Belat villages. He found some patients with malignant tumor who needed urgent operation. After the check-up he commented that the health condition of some patients was deteriorating and keratosis of a few patients was changing to SCC, one of skin cancers.
- 3. Treatment at YDFH:** The following patients received treatment at Yamagata Dhaka Friendship Hospital (YDFH) as summarized below:

Name	Sex	Age	Village	Period	Symptom/Treatment
LR	M	40	Marua	11/4 -	Problems on the chest
Ra	F	45	Samta	18/4 – 28/4	Cauterization of SCCs on hand
Ri	F	45	Samta	18/4 – 5/5	Tumor on the tongue
NI	M	50	Samta	20/4 – 5/5	Cauterization of SCCs on hands and feet
SG	M	50	Samta	20/4 – 12/5	Cauterization of SCCs on face
DH	M	38	Azagora	29/4 – 15/5	Cauterization of SCC on foot

Others:

Audit was conducted on the January-March accounts on 23rd April to send the financial report to AAN Japan.