

Activity Report - August 2006

Date: 10th October 2006

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Acting Manager (Jessore)

1. Panjia Project (Phase 2)

1.1 Mass Option Handover Ceremony in Panjia Union

To handover Rotary DTWs to 39 users committees in Panjia Union a big option handover ceremony was held at Abu Sharaf Sadek Auditorium in Keshabpur on 17th August. The ceremony was presided by Union Chairman of Panjia and moderated by Razu.

First, Rotarian Alhaj Jamil Hossain explained the function of Rotary in the Keshabpur Safe Water Supply Project with AAN in his opening speech. Then AAN made the following presentations:

- AAN's overall activities in Panjia Union - Al-Amin Mollah
- DTW installation - Ruhul Quddus
- Awareness activities - Monjuara Parvin
- Arsenicosis and its symptoms - Aklima Choudhury
- Future plans of AAN in Keshabpur - Sayed Sunny

Panjia Union Chairman Mr. Nizam Uddin, said that 90% people in the Union now have access to arsenic-safe water for drinking and cooking and thanked Rotary and AAN for saving villagers from the fatality of arsenic. He requested AAN, however, to install some more DTWs to achieve the 100% coverage of safe water supply in his Union.

Mr. Nironjon Biswas, Sub-assistant Engineer of Keshabpur Upazilla, said DTWs are good alternative safe water source in Panjia since there are clay layers that are ideal to install DTW. Dr. Subodh, Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer, made a comment about arsenicosis patient management. Mr. Mohsin Ali, Upazilla Social Welfare Officer, said that arsenic is an issue of great concern in our country and the villagers should use the DTWs from now on since safe drinking water has now been made available. He added that they should remember the name of AAN. In absence of Upazila Nirabahi Officer, Mr. Shaha Laxmikanto, Agriculture Officer made a congratulatory address saying: "Great achievement through community participation". He specifically told the chairmen of users committees to maintain and keep the safe water source properly because we have to think our next generation.

Ms. Sachie Tsushima, Country Manager of AAN, emphasized in her vote of thanks and closing speech that the handover of safe water options means the handover of responsibilities, too, to users. "You are



responsible”, she said, “to use the DTW water for drinking and cooking purposes, to maintain the DTW properly, and also to tell neighbours to use it”.

At the end of the ceremony, the certificate of the ownership and a tool bag were handed over to each Users Committee Chairman. There were 137 participants at the ceremony.

1.2 DTW Handover Ceremony in Monohornagar, Ward No. 5, Panjia Union

Earlier on 1st August one option handover ceremony was held at Pathorghata Middle Para of Monohornagar village, Ward #5 in Panjia Union, attended by Upazila Nirabahi Officer and Mr. Reg Collard, a Rotarian from Australia.



Users Committee Chairman is receiving the certificate of ownership from UNO (Monohornagar, Panjia Union)

1.3 Awareness Raising Activities

Flipchart Program in Bidyanandakati Union: The flipchart performance was conducted at 57 places in Ward Nos. 1 and 8 of Bidyanandakati Union in August. About 2,630 people participated in the program. Details of the campaign are summarized below:

Period	W #	Village	Place	Male	Female	Student Male	Student Female	Child	Total
2 - 12/8	8	Baushala, Kaliari & Biddanadakati	Para - 27	195	578	0	0	314	1,087
			School - 3	0	0	66	62	0	128
19 - 28/8	1	Burihati	Para - 22	176	566	0	0	269	1,011
			School - 5	0	0	143	261	0	404
2 - 28/8		Total		371	1,144	209	323	583	2,630

Cultural Program in Panjia Union: In the cultural program, first, two singers sing parody songs about arsenic using the melody of popular songs, and then two actors play *gombhira*, a folk musical drama, consisted of songs and comical narrations between a grandfather and his grandson. *Gombhira* is a wonderful tool to convey messages on arsenic and arsenicosis to a larger number of people. During the program, pictures of arsenicosis patients and their symptoms are shown to let people know about the risks of taking arsenic-contaminated water. In August two cultural programs were performed in Panjia Union as below:

Date	Union	W #	Village	Venue	Participants
1/8	Panjia	5	Monohornagar	Pathorghata Primary school	780
4/8	Panjia	6	Madardanga	Madardanga East Para	315
Total					1,095

Nutrition Program in Panjia Union: In August nutrition programs were performed at 12 sites where Rotary DTWs were installed to ensure that people will use the safe water for drinking and cooking. Details are given below:

Date	W #	Site Name	DTW #	Male	Female	Child	Total
1-8	5	Monohornagar Middle Para	20	12	45	56	113
4-8	6	Madardanga Kundu Para	30	12	45	56	113
7-8	6	Madardanga Nath Para	16	15	30	25	70
9-8	6	Madardnaga Madrasa Para	12	12	25	31	68
13-8	6	Madardanga Wrishi Para	18	10	41	27	78

16-8	6	Madardanga Southwest Para	37	7	37	25	69	
20-8	6	Madardanga East Para	6	0	21	0	21	
22-8	6	Madardanga East Das Para	19	25	50	40	115	
24-8	9	Panjia East Para	22	37	60	50	147	
27-8	9	Hod East Middle Para	31	25	70	45	140	
29-8	9	Hod North West Para	29	26	18	25	69	
30-8	9	Panjia South West para	27	21	25	18	64	
Total					202	467	398	1,067

Most of the female could learn how to cook *kichuri*, rice with pulse and seasonal vitamin-rich vegetables, and many children enjoyed the tasty *kichuri* lunch.

1.4 Ward AMC Meetings in Bidyanandakati Union

Four Ward AMC meetings were held in August in Bidyanandakati Union as shown in the table below. At each meeting AAN first explained the results of tube well screening including the number of suspected arsenicosis patients, and discussed what to be done for mitigation with AMC members.



Kichuri lunch at Monohornagar village on 1/8/06

Date	W #	Time	No of Participants	Place
7/8	4	4.00pm	16	Bhanderkhola Baza
9/8	5	4.00pm	23	Titabajitpur Primary School
12/8	3	4.00pm	17	Boga R.N. High School
13/8	2	4.00pm	21	Aulgati Primary School

2. Visitors

2.1 Mr. Reg Collard, Rotarian from Australia, visited Jessore from 31st July to 2nd August. On 31st July he went to Samta village and met some arsenicosis patients. He made a tour in the village to see various alternative safe water devices like dugwells with sand filter, pond sand filter, and DTW with sand filter. He also visited the KRK pipeline water supply system in Putkhali Union, Sharsha Upazila. On 1st August he visited several Rotary DTW sites in Panjia Union and observed villagers happily using Rotary DTWs. Then he attended a nutrition program at Pathorghata Middle Para of Monohornagar village, Ward #5 in Panjia Union, which he praised for good presentation on the enhancement of villagers' knowledge on nutrition. He, too, enjoyed the *kichuri* lunch. In the afternoon he attended the option handover ceremony in the same village and observed our cultural program also.

2.2 Mr. Michio Inoue, a journalist from Japan, visited Bangladesh from 1st to 9th August. He stayed in Jessore four days and observed arsenicosis patients, various safe water devices, and AAN activities.

2.3 Mr. Miyatake and Ms. Ohe of Miyazaki University stayed Jessore from 21st to 27th August to conduct researches in Marua.