

Monthly Activity Report - February 2006

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Date: 27th March 2006

1. Panjia Project Phase-2

Three AMC Meetings were held in February in Panjia W #6, 7 & 8.

1.-1 Ward AMC Meeting (Ward #6): It was held on 1st February at Panjia Union Parishad; 49 persons attended including UP Chairman.

First, Md. Abu Shamim Khan, Operation Manager of AAN, explained about our future plan and discussed with them about the role of Ward AMC to solve arsenic contamination problems.

Md. Amzad Hossain of Madardanga village told us that all the tea stalls and hotels in Panjia bazaar are using arsenic contaminated water for cooking and drinking purpose. “We should prevent this problem strictly with the help of UP chairman and AAN. If they were not alert to solve this problem, then we have to decide to introduce some types of punishment”, he added.

Panjia UP Chairman agreed to solve this problem by an administrative way.

The Chairman said that these village people think underground (DTW) water is not a solution for arsenic contamination and they need a surface water treatment plant. He advised the villagers if surface water reservoir was not available, then we should purchase any type of land for digging a pond by users share collection. He said it important to have an alternative safe water device like PSF to save our next generation.

1.-2 Ward AMC Meeting (W #7): It was held on 2nd February at Rajnagar Bankabarsi Primary School; 22 persons attended the meeting.

First we explained AAN’s next activities and discussed the role of Ward AMC and the importance of their participation in arsenic mitigation.

The participants told that there are many arsenicosis patients in the village and therefore they need safe water options as soon as possible.

1.-3 Ward AMC Meeting (W #8): It was held on 5th February with the presence of 40 persons including UP chairman.

AAN explained details of our plan and informed the participants of the role of Ward AMC. They quickly recognized the importance of a Ward AMC, and formed AMC so that they can take the assistance from AAN.

After that we interviewed three candidates for the post of Field Worker with the help of the Ward Union Member and Ward AMC Chairman. AAN selected 2 persons as Field Workers.

1.-4 Field Worker Training: Finally we selected 12 Field Workers from 6 Wards through interviews of candidates recommended by Ward Union Members. After compiling the training manual and tube well/household screen formats, we arranged a training program on 11th February 2006. The subjects of the training included basic information on arsenic as well as (1) how to check arsenic concentration in tube well water, (2) how to fill in tube well and household survey formats with mapping, (3) how to find arsenicosis patients, and (4) how to raise awareness among people.

1.-5 Tube Well and Household Screening:

Field Workers carried out the tube well and household screening program of Ward No. 3 of Panjia Union from 12th February to 26 February 2006. AAN staff supervised their activities. The tube well water of 10% samples was crosschecked for arsenic by AAS in the AAN laboratory. The locations of tube wells and households were also collected by GPS.



A field worker painting a tube well “red” again.

2. Supply of Safe Drinking Water

2.-1 Feuna PSF WQT and Maintenance Training: The construction of a pond sand filter (PSF) for the Utter Fenua Hossainia Kawmi Madrasa in Fenua village, Utter Hawla Union, Monoharganj Upazila of Comilla District, started on 28th November 2005 and finished on 8th January 2006. At first we trained some members of the madrasa on how to maintain the PSF and the chlorination system.

On 8th February, Shamim Khan and Quddus went to Fenua to check water quality after chlorination and discussed with madrasa people about the maintenance of the PSF. They had no problem in the operation and maintenance. In fact, the PSF is supplying drinking water of good quality as seen in the following table showing the results of the water quality test. Only fecal coliform was checked at BUET laboratory and others were tested at the AAN laboratory.



Table 1 Results of Water Quality Test of Fenua PSF (8/2/06)

Parameters	Bangladesh Standard	Raw water	Filtered water
pH	6.5~8.5	7.50	7.41
ORP (mV)	-	165	177
DO (mg/L)	6	8.52	4.52
Conductivity (μ S/cm)	-	189	153
TDS (mg/L)	1000	89	51
Turbidity (FAU)	10	32	0
Hardness (mg/l)	200-500	60	60
As (mg/L)	0.05	0.002	0.001
Fe (mg/L)	0.3~1.0	0.807	<0.3
Mn (mg/L)	0.1	0.185	0.046
NH ₄ ⁺ (mg/L)	0.64	0.29	0.01
NO ₃ ⁻ (mg/L)	44	1.3	0.3
PO ₄ ³⁻ (mg/L)	6.0	0.1	0.03
Fecal Coliform (cfu/100ml)	0		0

2.-1 Agarhati PSF Roof Setting: When the PSF was completed in January 2001, bamboo was used to hold the roof. Some of the bamboos were rotten and no longer strong enough, which in turn gave bad impressions about quality of the PSF water. The applied to AAN for financial help for changing the roof, the total cost of which was estimated at Tk. 3,196. After collecting their share of Tk. 500, AAN agreed to contribute the rest of the cost, and the Users Committee undertook the work to change the bamboos with iron bars.

3. Others:

- 3.-1 Visit to Khulna DPHE Lab:** On 2nd February Md. Abu Shamim Khan visited Khulna DPHE laboratory with Md. Shamim Uddin and Yukie Mato to share experience about water quality testing methods.
- 3.-2 Visit of AQUA Consultant:** Engineer A. J. M. Shamsuddin of AQUA Consultant & Associates Ltd visited some sites of options installed by AAN on 21st February, including Samta South East dug well, Samta PSF, Basatpur Math Para deep tube well, and Kaliani Biswas para PSF. Then he went to Bakulia in Jhikargaccha to see a PSF installed by BRAC and then to Kalini to see a PSF installed by DPHE, both of which were, unfortunately, not active. He also visited 2 other sites to see options installed by the Bangladesh Government and an NGO. Mr. Shamsuddin was appreciative to see our options.
- 3.-3 Proposal to Rotary International:** A proposal was submitted to a representative in Dhaka of Rotary International on 19th February through Programme Officer of UNICEF for a fund to install 60 deep tube wells in Panjia and Bidyanandakati Unions under the Panjia Project Phase-2.
- 3.-4 Audit:** The accounts for the year 2005 was duly audited by Azad Zamir & Co. and the audited financial report was submitted to the NGO Affairs Bureau on 28th February.