

Monthly Activity Report - January 2006

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Date: 15 March, 2006

1. Panjia Project Phase-2

After completion of Panjia Project Phase-1 in W #1, 2 and 9 of Panjia Union, the Asia Arsenic Network started to conduct Panjia Phase 2 in W# 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 which was requested by Union AMC earlier. In its first phase AAN installed 8 DTWs in highly contaminated 3 Wards in Panjia Union. In December 2005, AAN proposed its schedule for the next 3 years to the Upazila AMC meeting which is given below:

Union (Nos. of TW/HH)	% of Contaminated Tube wells	Number Of Patients	Year 2006	Year 2007	Year 2008
Panjia (Phase II)	92%	182	→		
Bidayanandakati (2464/HH 8,041)	41%	10	→		
Sagardari (2283/HH 7,518)	68%	4		→	
Mazidpur (2,201/HH 6,518)	32%	10		→	
Mongalkot (1,798/HH 5,601)	67%	7			→
Gaurighona (1,004/HH 4,680)	50%	27			→

Data Source: NAMIC

1-1 Union Arsenic Mitigation Committee (AMC) Meetings: Based on the work schedule of the project titled “Community Development for Safe Water and Healthy Living in Rural Areas” (“Panjia Project-2” in short), AAN requested the Union AMC Chairman to organize a meeting.

The Union AMC meeting was held in Panjia Union Parisad on 25th January where 22 people attended. Md Abu Shamim Khan, Operation Manager of AAN, explained the previous project, and current and future plans. He also explained about the field worker recruitment procedure and requested for cooperation of UP Chairman and relevant UP

members for recruitment. He asked all Ward AMC Chairmen to select educated persons and suggested to finalize the recruitment the same day after Ward AMC meeting. Then a schedule for Ward AMC meetings was fixed with the help of the Chairman of the meeting as below:

Date	Day	Member Name	W #	Village	Time	Place
29 Jan	Sunday	Abdul Khaleque	3	Sagordattakati	4pm	Sagardattakati Primary School
30 Jan	Monday	Durga Sanker Roy	4	Bagdanga	4pm	Bagdanga Primary School
31 Jan	Tuesday	Dr. Nur Ali	5	Monohornagar	4pm	Patharghata Primary School
01 Feb	Wednesday	Adhir Kumar Nath	6	Madardanga	4pm	Panjia Union Council
02 Feb	Thursday	Md. Rezaul Islam	7	Rajnagar	4pm	Rajnagr Primary School
05Feb	Sunday	Md. Azizur Rahman	8	Brammandanga	4pm	Kamalapur Primary School

Chairman of Union AMC, Mr. Nizam Uddin, thanked the Asia Arsenic Network for the activities so far done. At the same time he proposed AAN to install more safe water options. He preferred PSF, thinking as a better alternative safe water device since underground water is troublesome. He gave an order to his member to organize Ward AMC meetings regularly. Chairman offered his all types of cooperation for Panjia Phase 2.



1.-2 Ward AMC Meetings: Three Ward AMC meetings were held in January as summarized below:

- **AMC Meeting (Ward #3):** Sagordattakati & Belokati villagers formed AMC with the guidance of AAN and in conformity with the LGD policy on 29th January. Including Ward's Union Member, 39 persons attended the meeting. First AAN explained its project emphasizing on the importance of collaboration between the Ward AMC and AAN. Later, we interviewed 12 persons recommended by Chairman of the Ward AMC as suitable field worker candidates. Two persons were recruited.
- **AMC Meeting (Ward #4):** It was held on 30th January where 37 persons attended. First we introduced saying that the Asia Arsenic Network is a Japan-based, non-profitable organization and it is conducting arsenic mitigation activities. After briefing on Panjia Phase-1, we explained about the 2nd Phase. People quickly recognized the importance of a Ward AMC, and they formed AMC so that they can take the assistance from AAN. After that we started the FW interview program with the help of Ward's Union member. AAN selected 2 persons from the six candidates recommended by Ward AMC Chairman.
- **AMC Meeting (Ward #5):** It was held on 31st January where 38 persons attended. After briefing about its previous activities, AAN explained the implementation plan of Panjia Phase-2 that AAN will (1) check all tube well water to know the level of arsenic

contamination, (2) collect information on arsenicosis patients, and (3) start awareness raising programs. AAN added that the community would be encouraged for installing a safe water device in their locality by organizing a Users Committee and collecting users share of 10% of the construction cost. We also said that AAN will handover the device to the community.

2. Option Follow-up/Construction Activities

2.-1 Gravel Sand Filter at Chunakhali: The construction of a gravel sand filter in Chunakhali village, Ranihati Union, Chapai Nawabganj district, started on 27th December 2005 and finished on 21st January 2006 with all the chambers filled with gravels and sand. AAN arranged a maintenance training on 27th January. Md. Abu Shamim Khan, Md. Al-Amin Mollah, Md. Ruhul Quddus and Monjuara Parvin conducted the training, each playing different roles in water quality test, O&M technology and awareness. Prof. Hamidur Rahman (Dept. of Geology & Mining, Rajshahi University) also joined with us.

The water samples were collected for laboratory test on the same day and the result of the test is given below:

Parameters	Bangladesh Standard	Raw water	Filtered water
pH	6.5~8.5	7.29	7.83
ORP (mV)	-	-110	90
DO (mg/L)	6	0.21	9.0
Conductivity (μ S/cm)	-	768	688
TDS (mg/L)	1000	427	371
Turbidity (FAU)	10	0	0
Hardness (mg/l)	200-500	440	432
As (mg/L)	0.05	0.131	0.005
Fe (mg/L)	0.3~1.0	10.44	<0.3
Mn (mg/L)	0.1	0.485	0.046
NH ₄ ⁺ (mg/L)	0.64	3.42	1.61
NO ₃ ⁻ (mg/L)	44	3.2	4.1
PO ₄ ³⁻ (mg/L)	6.0	0.74	0.21
Fecal Coliform(cfu/100ml)	0		<1

From the analysis data above, it can be said the Chunakhali GSF is functioning well at the moment.

3. Visitors in January 2006

3.-1 Ganzawa San: She visited Chupria PSF #1 & 2. Chupria PSF #1 was again stopped because of insufficient maintenance. It needed gravel washing and sand scrapping. Community people excused that had no time to maintain this device, and user families did not pay the users share regularly. They were using deep tube well water near the PSF but

the deep tube well water is saline. She said the community needs an O&M training and awareness-raising activities for users share collection and uninterrupted operation. She also visited some patients and the PSF in Samta and also KRK Pipeline water supply system in Putkhali. She wanted to know how the community would improve their consciousness and skills to operate safe water options.

3.-2 Yamaguchi San: Ms. Mika Yamaguchi visited Mazdia PSF #3, Samta village and KRK pipeline water supply system to gather knowledge about arsenic mitigation.

3.-3 Stephanie: A student of University of Amsterdam, named Stephanie Verbeek, visited Samta village and KRK pipeline water supply system to gather knowledge about arsenic mitigation. She said she was conducting a study titled “multidisciplinary approach of the arsenic problem on local, regional and national levels” and was very appreciative of our safe water options.

3.-4 Dr. Abdul Hai: Dr. Hai, Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer of Sharsha, also visited Samta village and KRK pipeline water supply system. He requested AAN to install appropriate safe water options more in Sharsha Upazilla and he wants to check arsenicosis patients in his area.

3.-5 Anita Asadullah: Anita, a student of Sheffield University in U.K., visited Samta to gather knowledge about arsenic contamination in groundwater and mitigation activities. She also observed our Union AMC meeting and other activities in Keshabpur Upazila. She was very appreciative to have observed our comprehensive arsenic mitigation activities.

3.-6 North South University: A group of researchers from the university arranged focus group discussions with Users Committee members near Samta PSF and discussed about various issues including the following topics:

- *Water quality monitoring.
- *Operation and Maintenance.
- *User share collection and community development.
- *Patient management System.

3.-7 NHK TV Team: Ms. Miki Koga, Director, visited Jessore and shooted AAN activities. They interview to the villagers in the KRK pipeline area at Rajgonj village. She wanted to know the villagers’ feelings of getting safe water and paying their monthly user share. In Samta village she interviewed Prof. Hamidur Rahman (Dept. of Geology & Mining, Rajshahi University) to know the mechanism why arsenic is leaching out



Flipchart presentation in Samta

into groundwater. She also visited Marua village and had an interview with Abdul Aziz, an arsenicosis patient.

3.-8 Al-Jajira TV Team: Another TV team, this time from the Middle East, visited Samta village and the KRK pipeline water supply system in Khalshi village.

3.-9 Counselor of Japanese Embassy & JICA Resident Representative:

They visited AAN activity areas including Samta village and observed our safe water options. They were very appreciative of AAN's activities. While talking with some patients, they asked how their current health conditions were.



4. General Affairs

4.-1 FD-6 Approved: The Form FD-6, our project plan titled “**Community Development for Safe Water and Healthy Living in Rural Areas (Panjia Project-2 in short)**” for the next three years (2006 to 2008), was approved by the NGO Affairs Bureau.

4.-2 Launching Ceremony of JAMP: The new JICA/LGD project titled “Sustainable Arsenic Mitigation under Integrated Local Government System in Jessore” (“Jessore Arsenic Mitigation Project” or “JAMP” in short) started late December 2005, and the project team organized a launching ceremony on 26th January 2006 at the Collectorate Conference Room in Jessore. All AAN staff was invited to the launching ceremony and learned about the new project.