

Monthly Activity Report - May 2006

Date: 10th June 2006

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1. Panjia Project (Phase-2)

1.1 Ward AMC Meeting: 5 Ward AMC meetings were held in May-06 in Biddanadakati Union 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 Ward AMC Chairmen.

Date	W #	Time	No of Participants	Place
09-5-06	7	10.00	12	Parchakra High School
10-5-06	6	12.00	21	Bhanderkhola Madrasa
10-5-06	8	10.00	10	Jamalgong Baza
13-5-06	1	10.00	14	Burihati Attanirbharshil Sangsta Office
13-5-06	2	4.00	12	Kabilpur Government Primary School

1.2 Field Worker Training for TW Screening in Bidyanandakati: AAN arranged a training program for the selected 10 field workers from 5 wards (W Nos. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8) on 14th May 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, etc.

1.3 TW Screening in Biddanadakati Union and the Results: During the period of 08th to 22nd May, the screening of tubewells was carried out in ward #9 of Biddanadakati Union, which consists of three villages of Bausala, Bhabanipur and Hizaldanga.

The field workers checked the arsenic concentration of tube well water with the NIPSOM field kit and painted red on the tube wells which water contained arsenic exceeding 0.05mg/ltr, the Bangladesh standard for arsenic in drinking water, and green on the tube wells with the arsenic below the standard. The colors helped the villagers to know their tube well water was safe or not. The TW screening result for Ward #9 is shown in Table 1 below. In Ward #9, seven people were listed as suspected patients by the field workers; namely, four in Bausala village and three in Hizaldanga village.

The screening in Ward #7 and #8 started on 15th May and is going on as of 10 June.

Table 1: TW Screening Result in Ward No. 9 of Bidyanandakati Union, Keshabpur Upazila

Location		Tube Well Information						
Ward No.	Village Contamination (%) by NAMIC	Type	Green	Red	Sub-total	Contamination (%)	Inactive	Total
9 (8/5 22/5)	Bausala (26%)	STW	110	113	223	50.7%	10	233
		DTW	1	0	1	0.0%	0	1
		Sub-total	111	113	224	50.4%	10	234
	Bhabanipur (44%)	STW	3	17	20	85.0%	6	26
		DTW	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0
		Sub-total	3	17	20	85.0%	6	26
	Hizaldanga (88%)	STW	9	47	56	83.9%	9	65
		DTW	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0
		Sub-total	9	47	56	83.9%	9	65
	Ward Total	STW	122	177	299	59.2%	25	324
		DTW	1	0	1	0.0%	0	1
		Total	123	177	300	59.0%	25	325

1.4 Awareness Raising Activities

1.4.1 Flipchart Performance in Biddandakati Union: The flipchart performance was conducted at 29 places in Ward #3 and #4 of Bidyanandakati Union during 13th to 23rd May. About 1531 people participated in the program. Details of the campaign are summarized in the table below.

Period	W #	Village	Place	Male	Female	Student Male	Student Female	Child	Total
13~16/5	3	Rejakati, Baga and Nehalpur	Para/15	119	407	0	0	214	740
			School/1	0	0	20	42	0	62
18~23/5	4	Mominpur and Mohadebpur	Para/13	165	299	0	0	265	729
			School/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13/5~23/5	Total			284	706	20	42	479	1531

1.4.2 Cultural Program in Panjia Union: A cultural program is designed:

- to encourage the people to use arsenic safe water for drinking and cooking purposes;
- to use sanitary latrine for healthy living;
- to preserve the environment, etc.

Before the program a Field Worker moves around the village by a rikishaw van to inform the residents of the program, place, and time through a microphone. The program normally starts at 4:30 p.m. and finishes around 6:00 p.m. First two singers sing some parody songs on arsenic, arsenicosis, and hygienic living and a few popular folk songs. After that two actors play a *gombhira* (a folk musical drama) with messages on arsenic and arsenicosis.

In May, two cultural programs were held in Panjia Union; namely, (1) at the Primary School of Rajnagar Bankabarshi village of Ward #7 on 8 May, attended by 430 people, and (2) at the North Sarder Para of Belokati village of Ward #3 on 31 May, attended by 430 people

1.4.3 Nutrition Program in Panjia: Two nutrition programs were performed in May as summarized below:

Date	Site Name	W #	Male	Female	Child	Total
8 May	Rajnagar Bankabarshi	7	7	35	65	107
31 May	Belokati	3	20	127	93	240
Total Participants			27	162	158	347

Most of the female could learn about the importance of taking nutritious food to prevent from arsenicosis and how to cook *kichuri* with dal and vitamin-rich vegetables. Through the cooking session they were also informed strongly of the necessity of using arsenic safe water for cooking and drinking.

1.5 Rotary Safe Water Supply Project

1.5.1 Installation of Rotary DTW in Panjia Union:

The installation of Rotary DTW is ongoing smoothly in Panjia Union. The members of Ward Arsenic Mitigation Committees (AMC), Users Committees and villagers help any kind of work to install the safe water device. Now and then UP Chairman of Panjia and Ward UP members also visit the drilling site. The following Rotary DTWs were installed in May:

DTW #	W #	Place	Drilling Period	Depth	Sealing
5	3	Belokati North Sarder Para	25/4~1/5	595 ft	Done
6	6	Motherdanga East Para	27/4~1/5	695 ft	Done
7	1	Panchbakabarshi South Sarder Para	1/5~6/5	695 ft	Done
8	2	Gorbhanga East Middle Para	30/4~7/5	650 ft	Done
9	3	Belokati North Gazi Para	2/5~7/5	585 ft	Done
10	3	Belokati Zoarder Para	8/5~11/5	663 ft	Done
11	6	Madardanga Madrasa Para	2/5~12/5	604 ft	Done
12	2	Gorbhanga West Sarder Para	7/5~12/5	808 ft	Done
13	3	Belokati Kha Para	8/5~13/5	693 ft	Done
14	3	Sagodattakati North West Para	12/5~16/5	650 ft	Done
15	3	Sagodattakati S.M High School	14/5~17/5	620 ft	Done
16	6	Madardanga Nath Para	13/5~18/5	625 ft	Done
17	5	Monohornagar Pathorghata Ghosh Para	17/5~20/5	710 ft	Done
18	6	Madardanga Wrishi Para	16/5~20/5	640 ft	Done
19	6	Madardanga Das Para	19/5~22/5	646 ft	Done
20	5	Monohornagar East Middle Para	21/5~24/5	640 ft	Done
21	5	Monohornagar Pathorghat S.West Para	21/5~25/5	615 ft	Done
22	9	Panjia East Para	23/5~26/5	640 ft	Done
23	4	Bagdanga Monhornagar High School	25/5~28/5	610 ft	No
24	5	Monohornagar Pathorghata Ghat Para	26/5~30/5	670 ft	Done

1.5.2 Site Selection by PRA Method: Villagers produce a map of their village or para using PRA tools showing, among others, their houses and locations of the existing safe water sources to know the distances from each homestead. The map is then used for discussion to select the site for a Rotary DTW. They also consider various local conditions including geological features and accessibility by women and children.

Para meetings for site selection by PRA methods were conducted at a total of 7 places in Ward # 3, 6, 7 and 9 of Panjia Union in May as summarized below.

Date	W #	Village	Venue	Participants
10 th May	3	Belokati	Mistry Para	30
15 th May	9	Had	East Para	65
17 th May	9	Panjia	West Para	25
20 th May	9	Had	North Para	30
20 th May	9	Panjia	East Para	20
21 st May	6	Madardanga	Kundu Para	20
21 st May	7	Rajnaragar Bankabarshi	East North Para	41
Total				231

2. Option Follow-up

2.1. Chunakhali GSF: On 22nd May we visited the village and collected water samples from the tube well raw water, 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 3 workers and scraped off the top sand from the sand filter surface.

3. Medical Support and Arsenicosis Patients

3.1. Treatment at YDFH: The following patients received treatment at Yamagata Dhaka Friendship Hospital (YDFH) in May as summarized below:

Name	Sex	Age	Village	Period	Symptom/Treatment
LR	M	40	Marua	11/4 – 8/6	Problems on the chest
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

3.2. Medical Check-up by Dr. Ekhlalur Rahman: On 13th May Dr. Ekhlalur Rahman of YDFH kindly examined 14 patients who came to AAN Jessore office from Samta, Marua and Mazdia villages. He found some patients with weakness and coughing problem. After the check-up he commented that the health condition of some patients was not well.

4. Others

4.1. Visit of Mr. Rakesh K. Jaiswal of Eco-friends, India: Mr. Rakesh K. Jaiswal of Eco-friends, Kanpur, the State of Uttar Pradesh, India, visited Bangladesh from 3rd to 10 May to observe AAN's activities for arsenic mitigation. He stayed in Jessore from 4th to 9th and visited Samta and Marua villages to see some patients and various water devices there. He also paid a visit to the KRK pipeline water supply system in Putkhali Union, Sharsha Upazila, and observed the biological surface water treatment plant. In Panjia Union, Keshabpur Upazila, Mr. Rakesh saw

various awareness-raising activities such as flipchart performance, nutrition programme (cooking session to promote the use of safe water and the intake of vitamin-rich vegetables), and *gombhira* (a folk musical drama). He also joined in the AAN management & staff meeting. Overall, he was very appreciative to see our activities.

4.2. Presentation on Arsenicosis & AAN Medical Support Activities: Rotary Club of Jessore organized a seminar on arsenic contamination and arsenicosis at the Rotary Health Centre, Jessore, on 4 May. Aklima Choudhury, Patient Support Coordinator of AAN, made a presentation on arsenicosis and AAN's related activities. Prof. & Dr. Sk. Akthar Ahmad, Head of the Department of Occupational & Environmental Health of NIPSOM, presented paper on the current situation of arsenic contamination in Bangladesh with other cases in the world, and explained various symptoms of arsenicosis and patient management.

4.3. Four Rotarians Visit the DTW Sites: On 21st May, the following 4 Rotarians of Jessore visited the sites of the Rotary Safe Water Supply Project in Panjia:

- 1) Rtn S. R. Khan Sagar, President
- 2) Rtn Chinmoy Saha, Past President
- 3) Rtn Alhaj Eng. Jamil Hossain, Past President
- 4) Rtn Dr. Nasim Reza, Past President

Firstly they met with Panjia Union Parishad Chairman to be briefed on AAN activities and the progress of the Rotary Safe Water Supply Project. Then they went to Madardanga Das Para to see DTW installation. Finally they went to Mandardanga West Gazi Para where one Rotary DTW was completed with platform. They all drank from the Rotary DTW water. They were very pleased to see our activities.

4.4. Rotary Workshop: At the request of Chairman of the Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Project Committee (BAMPC) of Rotary International District 3280, AAN helped them draft a program for their workshop titled "Arsenic and What Should We do?". The workshop was held at the Hassan International Hotel in Jessore on 31 May, participated by about 80 Rotarians in the Khulna Division. Prof. & Dr. Sk. Akthar Ahmad, Head of the Department of Occupational & Environmental Health of NIPSOM made a presentation titled "Arsenic Contamination in Bangladesh and its Health Effects", followed by AAN's presentation titled "Rotary Safe Water Supply Project in Keshabpur" which was jointly presented by Abu Shamim Khan and Mr. Nizam



Uddin, Panjia Union Parishad Chairman. The BAMPC Chairman and other five Rotarians made a tour to the project sites. They conducted a handover ceremony of the completed Rotary DTW No. 1 at Imamnagar village Gazi Para, and also visited a DTW digging site and observed an awareness-raising program in Belokati village.

← The BAMPC Chairman (the 3rd from the left) listens to the explanation of Quddus, AAN Site Engineer, at the Rotary DTW No. 1 site in Imamnagar.