

# Asia Arsenic Network

## Activity Report - November 2006

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### 1. Panjia Project (Phase II)

#### 1.1 Users Share Collection in Bidyanadakati Union:

During November, seven (7) Users Committees were formed prior to the installation of a safe water option in every community where a DTW had been selected. After the formation of Users Committees, they collected user's contribution and submitted to AAN. Bagdanga Monohornagar High School committee (DTW #23) paid remaining Tk. 500/- of their users share this month. Details are in the following table:

Date	Ward	Village	Name of the committee	Users Share
09/11	3	Baga	Baga East Para	5000/-
19/11	9	Bhabanipur	Bhabanipur Middle Para (Test boring place)	5000/-
18/11	1	Burihati	Burihati South sarder Para	5000/-
15/11	9	Baushala	Baushala South Middle Para (Test boring place)	5000/-
21/11	3	Baga	Baga East Middle Para	5000/-
20/11	4	Mohadebpur	Baro Mohadebpur Middle Para	5000/-
25/11	1	Burihati	Burihati Mollik Para	5000/-
29/11	4	Bagdanga	Bgadanga Monohornagar High School	500/-

#### 1.2 DTW Installation in Bidyanandakati & Panjia Unions

In November, eight (8) deep tube wells (DTW) were installed in Bidyanandakati (B. Kati) and Panjia Unions under the Project Cooperation Agreement with Rotary. Four digging teams accomplished those with successful sealing. Two test borings found aquifers in their respective locations and were converted into DTWs (BDTW #14 & #15). However, BDTW #14 is pouring out saline water, and the other (#15) has a greenish colour in the water.

DTW #	W #	Union	Village & Para	Drilling Period	Depth (ft)	Sealing (ft)
13	1	B.Kati	Burihati South Sarder Para	16~20/11	741	350
14	9	B.Kati	Baushala South Middle Para (T.B)	11~14/11	577	360
15	9	B.Kati	Bhabanipur Middle Para (T.B)	11~16/11	642	380
16	3	B.Kati	Baga East Para	17~20/11	720	360
17	1	B.Kati	Burihati North Mollik Para	18~23/11	799	370
18	3	B.Kati	Baga Middle Sarder Para	19~22/11	660	345
19	4	B.Kati	Baro Mohadebpur Middle Para	21~24/11	730	350
23	4	Panjia	Bagdanga Monohornagar High School	24~26/11	620	270

#### 1.3 Test Boring in Bidyanadakati

As per the decision of CMC & Staff meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> August, test borings were carried out in Bhabanipur, Hizaldanga and Biddnadakati villages to obtain geological layer information at different depths and to ascertain if water is arsenic-safe. In Bhabanipur village it was converted to

a DTW as shown in the above table. In Hizaldanga and Biddnadakati villages, however, no sandy layer was found. Depths and drilling periods are recorded below:

Test Boring #	W #	Village & Para	Drilling Period	Depth (ft)	Remarks
1	9	Bidyadadakati Middle Para	15~18/11	860	No sandy layer
2	9	Hizaldanga Madrasa Para	12~17/11	850	No sandy layer

#### 1.4 Nutrition Program in Biddnadakati Union

In November, four nutrition programs were performed at 4 sites where Rotary DTWs were installed to ensure that people will use safe water for drinking and cooking purposes. Details are given below:

Date	W #	Site Name	DTW #	Male	Female	Children	Total
5/11	2	Aulgati South Para	1	25	42	60	127
6/11	5	Titabajitpur North Para	5	25	30	35	90
8/11	2	Aulgati North Para	2	40	55	90	185
11/11	5	Titabajitpur North West Para	5	20	40	45	105
Total No. of Participants				110	167	230	507

After the installation of safe water option, we arrange nutrition programs to advise the users about nutrition and recipe of **kichuri** using dal, mola fishes and vitamin-rich vegetables. We also inform them that they are the owners of the deep tube well.

#### 1.5 Cultural Program held in Panjia & in Biddnadakati Unions

We have three significant steps to reach people with information on arsenic and sufferings of arsenicosis patients. First, we tell users of respective water source about arsenic during the screening period. Second, to reach those who were absent during the screening, we run flip chart programs (one or more for each cluster of households). Finally, one cultural program is performed to reach all the villagers in a Ward. Six cultural programs were held in November, of which 4 was in Panjia and 2 in Biddnadakati Union. Details of the programs are summarized below:

Date	Prog #	Union	W #	Village	Venue	Participants
6/11	9	B.Kati	5	Titabajitpur	East Para	610
8/11	10	B.Kati	2	Aulgati	North Para	1,100
19/11	11	Panjia	5	Monohornagar	Master Para	275
26/11	12	Panjia	7	Rajnagarbakabarshi	East Para	310
28/11	13	Panjia	9	Hod	Middle Para	380
29/11	14	Panjia	8	Sataiskati	Primary School	559
Total						3,234

## 2. Panjia Project (Phase III)

### 2.1 TW Screening in Sagardari Union:

The tubewell re-screening was completed in Sagardari Union by 19 November with NIPSON field test kits. To cross check the result with AAS we also collected 5% of TW water samples in the Union. According to our survey there had been a 26% increase in the number of tube wells compared to the time of previous screening conducted by BAMWSP. Contamination level also increased from 64% to 87% on the average.

Annex-1 records the total results of the TW screening covering the whole Sagardari Union.

## 2.2 Awareness-raising Activities in Sagordari Union

The flipchart performance was conducted at a total of 122 places in Wards #1 & #2 of Sagordari Union during 12<sup>th</sup> November to 30<sup>th</sup> November. About 6,180 people participated in the program as summarized in the table below:

Period	W #	Village	Place	Male	Female	Child	Student Male	Student Female	Teacher	Grand Total
12 ~ 19/11	1	Basbaria & Roghurampur	Para / 26	235	776	374	0	0	0	1385
			School / 8	0	0	0	385	437	54	876
20~30/11	2	Meherpur & Gopsona	Para / 80	663	1443	837	0	0	0	2943
			School / 8	0	0	0	395	538	43	976
11~30/11		Total	122	898	2219	780	975	731	97	<b>6180</b>

## 2. Arsenic Mitigation Committee (AMC) Meetings

A Union AMC meeting was held at 10.00am on 18<sup>th</sup> November at Sagordari Union Parishad. About 27 persons, including 14 UAMC members, attended the meeting. First, Md. Abu Shamim Khan explained to the participants about the importance of taking safe water and testing water quality regularly. Then AAN explained the following topics:

- Screening Result: Md.AI-Amin Mollah.
- Arsenicosis Patients: Aklima Chowdhury
- Awareness Activities: Monjuara Parvin
- Safe Water Devices: Md.Ruhul Quddus
- Duties & Responsibilities of AMC:  
Md. Monjur Kader

Sagordari Union AMC Chairman, Hafez Rahaz Uddin, told the Ward members to arrange Ward AMC and village meetings and to encourage people to form Users Committees. The following tentative dates and places were decided at the meeting for Ward AMC/village meetings:



Date	Time	W #	Village name	Place
25-11-06	10 am	1	Basbaria & Raghurampur	Basbaria High School
26-11-06	10 am	2	Meherpur & Gopsona	Gopsona Bazar
27-11-06	10 am	3	Mirzapur & Bishnupur	Mirzapur Anondaniketon
28-11-06	10 am	4	Gobindopur & Dharmopur	Dharmopur Primary School
29-11-06	10 am	5	Kasta & Baruihati	Kasta Primary School
30-11-06	10 am	6	Fotepur .Sreepur & Jihkra	Jhikra Primary School
02-12-06	10 am	7	Chingra	Chingra Union Parishad
03-12-06	10 am	8	Sheikhpur & Sagordari	Sagordari Parjaton Centre
04-12-06	10 am	9	Komorpur & Sagordari	Sagordari High School

## 2.3 Ward AMC Meetings:

Five Ward AMC/PRA meetings were held in November in Sagordari 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. Then demand for safe water option was collected and a PRA map was prepared after discussions on what to be done for mitigation with AMC members.

Date	Time	W #	No of Participants	Place
25/11	10 am	1	45	Mikel Modhusudon club, Basbaria
26/11	10 am	2	23	Gopsona Bazar
27/11	10 am	3	20	Mirzapur Ananda Niketon
28/11	10 am	4	14	Dharmapur Primary School
29/11	10 am	5	29	Kasta Primary School

### 3. Visitors

A 7-member JOCV team visited Jessore from November 7th to 9th. In the evening of 7th AAN arranged a PowerPoint presentation on AAN activities for them. In Sagardari and Bidyanandakati Unions the JOCV members observed our ongoing activities including TW screening, listing of suspected patients, option installation, and nutrition & cultural program. They also visited four sites of DTWs newly installed and interviewed villagers. The JOCV members visited Samta village to meet patients at West Para and to observe different types of safe water options. They interviewed villagers and some members of Noxi Club (handicraft-making group). After a feedback meeting, they left our office at around 2.30pm on 9th. They expressed their satisfaction by saying that the tour was informative and interesting.



### 4. Follow-up of Installed Safe Water Devices

**4.1 Chunakhali GSF:** On 01<sup>st</sup> November Ruhul Quddus visited Chunakhali village and collected water samples from the various parts of the gravel sand filter (GSF; an arsenic removal unit) to test them for arsenic by AAS in the AAN laboratory. On the following day we cleaned the inlet chambers and gravel tanks. All the gravels were washed with tube well water by the help of 6 workers and the top sand was scraped off from the sand filter surface. The result of water quality test of the GSF is summarized below:

Sl. No	Water Source	Water level	Arsenic Level (mg/L)	Iron Level (mg/L)	As Removal efficiency (%)
1	Raw	TW	0.247	8.649	
2	Inlet - 1	Surface	0.242	7.138	2
3	Inlet - 2	Surface	0.204	6.768	16
4	Gravel Tank - 1	Surface	0.128	2.395	37
5	Gravel Tank - 2	Surface	0.098	1.118	23
6	SSF	Surface	0.093	1.071	5
7	Tap		0.042	0.042	55

### 5. Patients Monitoring

**5.1 Samta Village:** On 9<sup>th</sup> November Aklima, Patient Support Coordinator (PSC), visited Samta village and checked health condition of some patients. Daud Ali's condition deteriorated, and the condition of Fulsurat, Rashida, Renjuara and Johor Ali's was unchanged. Sobur Ali developed few painful warts (keratosis) on his hands.

**5.2 Dr. Eklasur:** On 28<sup>th</sup> November Dr. Eklasur Rahman of Yamagata Dhaka Friendship Hospital visited Jessore and checked 13 patients from Samta and Marua villages. Three patients were recommended to have surgery.

**5.3 Sagardari Union:** PSC examined 17 patients in Sagardari Union W #3 (Mirzapur and Bishnupur villages), among them 5 were newly listed. The other five patients listed by Field Workers were not present during her visit.

## 6. Others:

**6.1 Arsenic Workshop in Kolkata:** There was a workshop titled “Asian International Arsenic Workshop” in Kolkata on 13-14 November. It was organized by Misereor (a German NGO), West Bengal Voluntary Health Service, and NGO Forum of Bangladesh. Tsushima made a presentation on AAN’s integrated approach for arsenic mitigation in Bangladesh and Sunny made a poster presentation at the exhibition hall, both of which were well received.



**4.2 Meeting with UNO:** On 19<sup>th</sup> November AAN team (Khan, Al-Amin & Kader) called on UNO Keshabpur to inform him of the latest screening result of Sagardari and to ask him to attend one of the handover ceremonies as chief guest. He agreed on our proposal and asked for a date within 25-28 November.