

# Asia Arsenic Network

## Monthly Activity Report – September 2006

Date: 29 October 2006

**Reported by:** Md. Monjur Kader, Project Coordinator  
 Md. Al-Amin Mollah, Acting Operation Manager  
 Sayed Sunny, Admin & Accounts Manager (Dhaka)

### 1. Panjia Project (Phase II)

#### 1.1 Interactive Discussion among the UP Members of Panjia & Bidyanandakati

On September 4, an ‘exchange of opinion’ meeting was held between the elected members of both Panjia and Bidyanandakati (B.Kati) Unions. The purpose of the meeting was for the Union Parishad members of B. Kati to learn how the Panjia UP members participated in the implementation of the project. Except female members and the UP chairman of B. Kati (female), all 9 members attended in the discussion.

B. Kati UP members asked many questions, such as “How did UP members play their roles during the construction of safe water option?”, or “Was there any dispute among users committee members, and how did UP members resolve it?”, and so on. The B.Kati UP members seemed to have well understood their roles and assured of their whole hearted support to meet the purpose of the project. About 40 people attended. Our visitors from Japan witnessed the meeting which was followed by lunch.



#### 1.2 Nutrition Programs in Panjia

A total of 6 Nutrition programs were held in Panjia Union during September covering 3 villages in 3 Wards, as summarized in the table below. Those programs produced a tremendous effect on the users of respective deep tube wells.

Date	Site Name	Rotary DTW #	W #	Male	Female	Child	Total
6/9	Panjia South West Para	27	9	18	37	30	85
4/9	Rajnarabakabarsi South West Para	32	7	15	43	31	89
7/9	Rajnarabakabarshi West Para	33	7	12	50	30	92
9/9	Rajnarabakabarshi East Sarder Para	3	7	12	57	35	104
13/9	Belokati North Para	38	3	10	52	40	102
16/9	Belokati West Para	36	3	7	17	10	34
	Total			74	256	176	506

### 1.3 Flipchart Programs in Bidyanandakati

In September there were 59 flipchart programs in B.Kati Union covering 6 villages of 2 Wards as summarized below. The programs reached about 2693 villagers and 515 students with arsenic-related information.

Period	W #	Village	Place	Male	Female	Student Male	Student Female	Child	Total
4-12/9	2	Sosokenpur, Aulganti Kabilpur & Hasanpur	Para - 19	184	509	0	0	253	946
			School - 2	0	0	38	67	0	105
13-27/9	6	Bhanderkhola & Fotepur	Para - 34	327	813	0	0	607	1747
			School - 4	0	0	182	228	0	410
4-27/9	Total			511	1322	220	295	860	<b>3208</b>

### 1.4 PRA Programs in Bidyanandakati

There were 8 (eight) PRA programs held in 2 (two) levels. In the 'ward' level PRA programs, basically, total demand of the respective wards were assessed. And 'users' level PRA programs held to determine the place of the safe water option, in this case Deep Tubewell. Details described in the following table.

Date	W #	Village	Para	PRA Type	Participants	Outcome
6/9	3	Boga	Bogar Mor,	Ward PRA	40	A ward map, indicating their requirement and probable user's community.
16/9	4	Mohadevpur	East Para	Village PRA		Villagers failed to achieve any consensus on the position of the DTW.
17/9	2	Aulganti	South Para	Village PRA	48	One village map, indicating the position of DTW.
17/9	2	Aulganti	North Middle	Village PRA	70	Villagers failed to achieve any consensus on the position of the DTW. They agreed to the site proposed by AAN.
18/9	5	Titabazitpur	North	Village PRA	43	One village map, indicating the position of DTW.
19/9	5	Titabazitpur	North West	Village PRA	72	One village map, indicating the position of DTW.
19/9	5	Titabazitpur	South Middle	Village PRA	45	One village map, indicating the position of DTW.
20/9	5	Titabazitpur	Middle Madrasha	Village PRA	30	One village map, indicating the position of DTW.

### 1.5 Users Share Collection

During September, seven (7) users committees were formed prior to installation of the option in every community that gets a DTW. After the formation of a users committee, they arranged user's contribution and submitted to AAN.

Date	Ward	Village	Name of the committee	Users Share
26/9	5	Titabazitpur	North Para Committee	5000/-
27/9	5	Titabazitpur	South West Para Committee	4000/-
28/9	5	Titabazitpur	Middle Madrasha Para Committee	5000/-
28/9	5	Titabazitpur	South East Para Committee	5000/-
29/9	2	Aulganti	North Para Committee	5000/-

## 1.6 DTW Installation in Bidyanandakati in September

Installation of Rotary deep tube wells (DTW) as a safe water source started in B. Kati this month, with four digging teams. Drilling of 2 DTWs was completed with successful sealing as below.

B-DTW #	W #	Village & Para	Drilling Period	Depth (ft)	Strainer (ft)	Sealing (ft)
1	2	Aulganti South Para	20-26/9	697	20	400
2	2	Aulganti North Para	27-30/9	665	20	410

## 2. Panjia Project (Phase III)

In continuation to Panjia Project Phase II, Phase III started at Sagardari Union in Keshobpur Upazilla on 6 September. The project intends to install about 60 DTWs covering almost 100% population of 9 Wards in Sagardari Union. Md. Al-Amin Molla and Md. Monjur Kader met Sagardari UP Chairman, Mr. Hafez Rahaz Uddin on September 5 to fix a date for a Union Arsenic Mitigation Committee (UAMC) meeting. Finally the UAMC meeting was set for 10 September.

### 2.1 UAMC Meeting

A Union Arsenic Mitigation Committee meeting was held on 10 September in Sagardari UP office situated in Chingra. The Meeting was chaired by the UAMC chairman and facilitated by Mr. Ruhul Quddus, Site Engineer of AAN. Acting Manager Md. Al-Amin Mollah explained AAN activities in Keshobpur, procedures and future plans in Sagardari Union. Site Supervisor Md. Abu Hanjala Rana explained the situation of arsenic contamination in Sagardari based on the report by BAMWSP, and then Project Coordinator Md. Monjur Kader explained the role of Union Arsenic Mitigation Committee members.

About 40 persons attended the meeting. Among the 19 UAMC members 16 were present. AAN requested the UAMC members for collaboration to implement the project within its timeframe i.e. from September 2006 to April 2007. In return UAMC members expressed their gratitude, thanking



AAN and Rotary for planning such a project. They discussed their sufferings due to arsenic. Since the inhabitants are relatively well aware of arsenic problem, they try to collect safe water as much as possible even from far distances. They also informed AAN of the occurrence of salinity in their deep aquifers. They assured their support to the up-coming project activities. At the end of the meeting dates for Ward Arsenic Mitigation Committee (WAMC) meetings were finalized with the help of respective UP members.

## 2.2 Ward AMC Meetings

The WAMC meetings were held successfully as planned, except at Ward #8 due to some personal problem of the WAMC chairman. The meetings went on well discussing the purpose and implementation process of the project and the role of WAMCs

Date	Ward	Place	WAMC Members	Others	Total
13/9	1	Banshbaria Secondary School	5	15	20
13/9	2	Gopshona Reg. Pri. School	4	35	39
14/9	9	Komorpur NGO primary School	5	38	43
14/9	3	Mirzapur NGO School	4	17	21
17/9	5	Baruihati primary School	6	38	44
17/9	4	Dharmapur Primary School	4	22	26
18/9	6	Jhikra Govt Primary School	5	30	35
20/9	7	Chingra UP office	3	17	20

## 2.3 FW Recruitment & Training

Field Workers (FW) of respective Wards were recruited following the WAMC meetings in open interviews. All the attendees witnessed the interviews. We looked for smartness, general knowledge, knowledge about arsenic and their respective villages. A total of 18 FWs were recruited with the recommendation of the WAMC chairmen.

Field Workers training on screening was arranged in Chingra Govt. Primary School on 22 September. The training session includes (1) basic information on arsenic, (2) how to use a NIPSOM field arsenic test kit to measure arsenic in tube well (TW) water, (3) how to fill the TW screening format, (4) symptoms characteristic to arsenicosis, and (5) basic awareness activities.



## 2.4 Tube Well Screening

Tube well screening activities started in Sagardari Union on 24 September simultaneously in Ward #5 and Ward #6. We found more tube wells had been installed since the screening by BAMWSP in both Wards. So, the TW screening may not be finished within our expected timeframe.

## 3. Patient Monitoring

Suspected patients listed by field workers during the screening in Panjia and B.Kati Unions were visited by our Patient Support Coordinator, Aklima Chowdhury. Out of 21 people examined by her, five had skin symptoms like arsenicosis and yet need to be confirmed by an expert.

## 4. Option Follow-up

**Chunakhali GSF:** On 23 September water samples were collected at Chunakhali GSF (=an arsenic removal unit consisting of gravel and sand filters) for testing arsenic concentration in both raw and treated water. Also gravels were washed and the top part of the sand filter was scraped off.

## 5. Visitors

**5.1 Rotarian Provat Kumar Mitro:** On 11 September Mr. Mitro, a Rotarian from India, visited AAN office and Rotary Health Centre Jessore, and then met with Mr. Nironjon Biswas, Sub-assistant Engineer of Keshabpur PHE, to discuss arsenic contamination in Keshabpur. After that he went to Panjia Union Parishad office to meet with Chairman, Mr. Nizam Uddin, to discuss Rotary DTW installed in Panjia with technical support by AAN.

Later Mr. Mitro examined the accounts record in relation to the Rotary DTW installation for auditing purposes, and commented that he was satisfied with the way of keeping records by AAN.



Mr. Mitro observing the nameplate of a Rotary DTW

**5.2 Mr. Kazuya Yamaguchi:** Mr. Yamaguchi, a student of Miyazaki Koritsu University, stayed in Jessore from 7 to 11 September. He visited Marua village to observe and film arsenicosis patients and their making *nokshi* products. He also joined in one of nutrition programs in Panjia.

**5.3 OISCA Team:** Seven people, consisting of one OISCA representative and six students under the JFGE<sup>(\*)</sup> Field Trip Program, visited Jessore from 2 to 6 September. They observed AAN activities like a nutrition program in Samta, where they met some arsenicosis patients. They visited various safe water options, including Rotary DTWs in Panjia. They also joined an interactive meeting in Panjia, which was followed by lunch for exchange views while enjoying Bengali food.

\*JFGE = Japan Fund for Global Environment of the Environmental Restoration & Conservation Agency.

## 6. General

**Project Cooperation Agreement Signed:** On 17 September the Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) was signed between the Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Project Committee of Rotary International District 3280 and AAN after modifying the number of safe water devices to be installed in the target area from 66 to 60 and the related budget. The PCA, the second between the two parties, aims to supply safe drinking water in arsenic-affected villages in Sagardari Union of Keshabpur Upazila, with a project period of 1 September 2006 to April 2007.