

# Arsenic Alleviation

Country: Bangladesh

Category: Development and Relief

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Khurshed's father and mother show the filter that has vastly improved their water quality.

↙ This project improves human health by reducing arsenic contamination of the groundwater. This is a naturally-occurring phenomenon in this region, but many people are not aware of the dangers in drinking water from contaminated wells. We work in with the government and other agencies to distribute arsenic filters to the community at a greatly subsidised rate and provide training and awareness.

↙ Update from Project Manager, Donald Schroeder, January 2010.

Khurshed is the oldest of three brothers. He works at an office in the same building as the Dohar branch of the SIMaid Arsenic Program. After hearing about arsenic removal filters from SIMaid staff he was concerned about his mother's health, and requested a test of the water from the family's 150-foot deep tube well.

The test showed arsenic concentrations at 150 ppb, 100ppb higher than the government standard of 50 ppb. The water also had high iron content so Khurshed bought a filter, and after using the filter the water test showed no arsenic contaminate. Due to the high mineral content Khurshed cleans the filter every

three weeks but is grateful for the improved health of his family.

All five family members use the filter - Father (Khaleq), mother, Khurshed, and two brothers. Occasionally some neighbours even use the filtered water. They all prefer the water from the filter, for its clarity and good taste. Their guests often remark about how good the water tastes.

Khurshed's mother says her health has benefitted as a result of the filtered water. She had chronic bone pain—perhaps from calcium deficiency—but after using filtered water the pain is greatly diminished.



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