

Arsenic Alleviation

Country: Bangladesh

Category: Development and Relief

Project number: 98335

Need February 10: \$75,548



Arsenic filters are provided at heavily subsidised rates so that families might be able to enjoy clean healthy water.

↙ 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, March 2010.

The last quarter has again seen our staff moving around various villages and communities within our project area to complete arsenic tests for tube wells, educational sessions and to distribute arsenic removal filter to families with high concentrations of arsenic in their drinking water. We continue to have a 2-3 month "waiting list" at all of our Faridpur offices for filters, which is a good problem to have as it indicates our message is getting out and our project has credibility in the eyes of the local people.

In the past 6 months we have tested approximately 860 tube wells for arsenic, of which 625, or 73%, had dangerous levels of

arsenic. In addition to screening tube wells, the staff also ran 137 village based training sessions, which directly explained the dangers of arsenic and possible solutions, to over 2,300 people. The staff also provided over 710 household arsenic removal filters providing safe drinking water for over 6,100 people. We continue to require an approximate 30% local contribution towards the purchase of each household arsenic removal filter. We believe this local contribution helps to insure that the project beneficiaries will utilise their filters in the intended manner.



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