



Map of Bangladesh

#### THE ARSENIC PROBLEM AT A GLANCE

For the people of Bangladesh, mostly in rural areas, a new disaster has emerged. Two-thirds of the tube wells installed over the last three decades - roughly three million in total - turn out to contain arsenic concentrations above the permissible levels set by the WHO. These wells were installed in firm conviction that they would contribute to a secure and reliable drinking water supply, and in order to make an ending to various contagious diseases from the use of surface water.

In itself that goal has been reached. It is therefore a bitter observation that it is this very approach that has led to widespread arsenic poisoning of drinking water. Main problems for designing feasible solutions are the uncertainty about the details of the contamination, the cost and complexity of available remedial technologies, the lack of well-functioning drinking water institutions, and a huge lack of local awareness about arsenic.



Village discussion about arsenic



Marking contaminated tube well

#### BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECTS

While the arsenic problem is generally referred to as one of the biggest environmental and health calamities of the last decades, little has been achieved to manage the issue. Most initiatives today are researching the geological, chemical, health and technical details. These activities are obviously very important to clarify the many uncertainties that emerge from this issue, but the urgent character of the issue requires a more pragmatic approach.

The Arsenic Mitigation and Research Foundation is a joint effort between universities (TUD, Dhaka University & University of New South Wales) and local Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) (PRIDE & AITAM) with the aim to link practical research to local priorities and implementation. We are currently working in two districts: Jessore and Munshiganj. More info can be downloaded from:

[HTTP://PEOPLEANDWATER.ORG](http://PEOPLEANDWATER.ORG)

# BANGLADESH STUDENT PROGRAM

## INFORMATION FOLDER



# Student Program in Bangladesh

## BACKGROUND

Over the past 15 years, Delft University of Technology students have participated in research and project activities related to study various water management issues in Bangladesh, particularly the controversial Flood Action Plan.

The idea was triggered by the recognition that in many cases 'modern' technology played an adverse role in the development of poor socio-economic groups. Being hosted by local Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), students were given an opportunity to take a bottom-up perspective on the problems and get close to operations and processes in development projects.

## OBJECTIVES

The objective of the program is in the first place for you to experience a direct confrontation with the situation in developing countries. Secondly, you might come up with creative suggestions for the AMRF programme.

## YOUR PROJECT

Since 1999 the program is focusing on the arsenic issue and has been linked to a broader action research framework. You will receive a lot of freedom in figuring out how you can contribute to these activities. We welcome your ideas and suggestions. You will be working alongside the staff and they will help you with translations and other support.

## YOUR STAY

You are expected to pay for your own flights and insurance. A monthly fee of 250,- Euro will also be charged. You will be asked to pay this at the start of each new month (ATM machines are available). Various opportunities for financial

support and vaccinations are available through the university.

In return, this 'package deal' will cover all normal expenditures for food, housing, local transport, internet, local supervision, translation and various practical support. You should bear the costs of eating out. Depending on the type and amount of documents, costs for printing and copying of research material may be shared.



## SOME ISSUES TO CONSIDER

You will be hosted in a safe environment but we ask you to avoid going out by yourself at night. If you are late try to arrange for a place to stay and warn our staff on your whereabouts.

Please respect an appropriate dress code and preferably wear long sleeves (which will also better protect you against mosquitos!). In general be respectful and remember you are guests in another country. If you have any questions, the staff are always happy to help you. In the end, we guarantee that you will come back home with a unique and intensive learning experience!



## CONTACT IN BANGLADESH

ADDRESS	HOUSE #274, ROAD #1, BAITUL AMAN HOUSING SOCIETY, ADABOR, DHAKA, BANGLADESH
PHONE	+8801711391521 (DR. MASUD)
EMAIL	<a href="mailto:INFO@PEOPLEANDWATER.ORG">INFO@PEOPLEANDWATER.ORG</a>