Arsenic Mitigation in Bangladesh


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### ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>BAMWSP</td>
<td>Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project.</td>
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<td>BBS</td>
<td>Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics</td>
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<td>BCC</td>
<td>Behaviour Change Communication</td>
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<td>BGS</td>
<td>British Geological Survey</td>
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<td>BMRC</td>
<td>Bangladesh Medical Research Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOGMC</td>
<td>Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>BP</td>
<td>Before Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAC</td>
<td>Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee</td>
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<td>BRTC</td>
<td>Bureau of Research, Testing and Consultation</td>
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<td>BSMMU</td>
<td>Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University</td>
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<td>BUET</td>
<td>Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology</td>
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<td>CBOs</td>
<td>Community Based Organizations</td>
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<td>DANIDA</td>
<td>Danish International Development Agency</td>
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<td>DCH</td>
<td>Dhaka Community Hospital</td>
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<td>DFID</td>
<td>Department for International Development</td>
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<td>DGHS</td>
<td>Directorate General of Health Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPHE</td>
<td>Department of Public Health Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>DTW</td>
<td>Deep Tubewell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DWASA</td>
<td>Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPC</td>
<td>Engineering and Planning Consultants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPIWTA</td>
<td>East Pakistan Inland Water Transport Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOB</td>
<td>Government of Bangladesh</td>
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<tr>
<td>GSB</td>
<td>Geological Survey of Bangladesh</td>
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<td>HRD</td>
<td>Human Resources Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>HTW</td>
<td>Hand Tubewell</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICDDR,B</td>
<td>Int. Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh</td>
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<tr>
<td>IG</td>
<td>Infiltration Gallery</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRP</td>
<td>Iron Removal Plant</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITN</td>
<td>International Training Network Centre</td>
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<td>LGD</td>
<td>Local Government Division</td>
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<td>LGED</td>
<td>Local Government Engineering Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGIs</td>
<td>Local Government Institutions</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
M&E Monitoring and Evaluation
MIS Management Information System
MOHFW Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MLGRD&C Ministry of Local Govt., Rural Dev. & Cooperatives
MPO Master Plan Organization
NAMIC National Arsenic Mitigation Information Centre
NGO Non-Government Organization
NILG National Institute of Local Government
NIPSOM National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine
O&M Operation and Maintenance
R&D Research & Development
RDA Rural Development Academy
RWH Rain Water Harvesting
RWS Rural Water Supply
SDC Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation
SSF Slow Sand Filter
SST Shallow Shrouded Tubewell
STW Shallow Tubewell
TA Technical Assistance
UNDP United Nations Development Program
UNICEF United Nations Children’s Fund
TCD Technical Cooperation for Development
UP Union Parisad
VSST Very Shallow Shrouded Tubewell
WASA Water Supply and Sewerage Authority
WatSan Water and Sanitation
WHO World Health Organization
WSS Water Supply and Sanitation
WSP – SA Water and Sanitation Program – South Asia
WB The World Bank
FOREWORD

The problem of arsenic contamination of ground water, with its serious multi-sectoral impacts confronts the Government of Bangladesh with several challenges - (i) providing safe drinking water to the affected community (ii) management of the arsenicosis patients and (iii) looking into some crucial hydro-geological issues being the most urgent of them.

With a view to arriving at a general consensus on some technical issues of emergency nature and to get guidance from the national and international experts for addressing these technical issues the Government of Bangladesh organized a three-day International Workshop on Arsenic Mitigation during January 14-16, 2002.

Experts on the relevant fields from home and abroad attended the workshop and came up with three sets of recommendations focusing on relevant hydro-geological issues, health issues and alternative water supply options.

We believe that the recommendations of the workshop would help us design and refine our strategies for arsenic mitigation.

A Y B I Siddiqi
Convener, Workshop Organizing Committee &
Secretary,
Local Government Division
Ministry of Local Government Division, Rural Development & Cooperatives
Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
Arsenic contamination of ground has been recognized as major public health problem in Bangladesh. A three-day international workshop on Arsenic Mitigation in Bangladesh was held during January 14-16, 2002 in Dhaka. The workshop was organized by the Local Government Division, Ministry of LGRD & Co-operatives with support form WHO, JICA, DANIDA, UNICEF, CIDA, DFID and WSP-SA.

Mrs. Khaleda Zia, Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh inaugurated the workshop. Her inaugural address contained important policy directives regarding arsenic mitigation in the country. Here we publish the unofficial English translation of the inaugural speech of the Honourable Prime Minister.

The workshop focussed on some important technical issues regarding hydrogeological and health aspects of arsenic contamination and alternative water supply options for arsenic mitigation. The issues were discussed in three parallel technical sessions, attended by local and international experts in the relevant fields. Three theme papers, prepared on three major issues by local experts provided for the basis of discussions in the technical sessions.

The three theme papers and the recommendations of the workshop summarize some crucial aspects of the arsenic problem in Bangladesh and provide for the foundation of a comprehensive arsenic mitigation strategy for the country. We hope this publication will be a useful document for arsenic mitigation in Bangladesh.

M. Feroze Ahmed
Chowdhury Mufad Ahmed
Editors