



TV

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UN IN ACTION

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BANGLADESH: TRACES OF POISON IN WATER

VIDEO

AUDIO

CU. FLOWING WATER

NARRATION:

Bangladesh...awash with an abundance of water... 3.5

RAIN

Monsoon rains blanket the country during the wet season. 3

VILLAGE MEN WORKING/DIGGING
SHALLOW WELL WATER

All over the countryside, thousands of shallow wells have been dug using this traditional technique. 5.5

WOMEN PUMPING WATER FROM A
DEEP WELL

These wells offer life during the long, dry season – water to drink, water to clean, water to live. 7

WOMAN EXAMINE BY A DOCTOR

But in early 1990s, dangerous levels of arsenic water were detected in these shallow wells. 6

CU. TURBULENT WATER

Suddenly an unseen poison threatened Bangladesh's water supply. The crisis has led to a long and arduous search for safe water in the country over the past twenty years. 11

VAR. SHOTS AT LABORATORY

WATER TESTING

Dr. M. Khaliquzzaman from the World Bank. 3

DR KHALIQUZZAMAN (ENGLISH) M

DR. M. KHALIQUZZAMAN TALKS ON
CAMERA

"The arsenic issue was identified in the early 1990s in the Bangladesh and roughly 35 percent of the country is infested with this problem. The amount of people involved is more than 50 million, so it was a huge problem." 18

MS. WATER SURFACE

Almost overnight, one of the country's bountiful blessings became a deadly curse. 5

CLEAR LAKE WATER FLOWING

Yan Zheng from UNICEF. 2

YAN ZHENG (ENGLISH) F

YAN ZHENG TALKS ON CAMERA

"Arsenic is very interesting because it interacts with the cells and genes in many different ways. It is a toxin. It is probably one of the only environmental toxins that attack more than one organ in the human body. It can cause various gene mutations and expression differences that other environmental carcinogens aren't capable of doing." 27

VILLAGERS WITH ARSENIC
INFECTION
INFECTED FOOT

NARRATION

This villager has dealt with the effects of arsenicosis for over 20 years. Arsenic can create painful lesions on the skin and cause various cancers. 9

VOICE OVER MAN WITH ARSENIC
INFECTION

VILLAGER (LOCAL DIALECT) M

"It was hurting so much I wanted to cut out."

NARRATION

DOCTOR WRITING NOTES WATER COMING OUT OF A PUMP	As part of the arsenic mitigation efforts, the international Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, has used nuclear techniques since 1999 to help locate safe water. 15
LAB TECHNICIANS CONDUCT WATER TESTING	Called Isotope hydrology, they discovered that arsenic occurred naturally in the ground water. By analyzing the age of groundwater and tracking its movement, they have helped predict where safe water can be found. 13.5
THREE MEN DIGGING FOR CLEAN SHALLOW WATER	Once the cause was discovered, villages were discouraged from digging shallow wells. Water from this well might be used to clean clothes, but will not be safe for drinking or cooking. 11
INTRO SHOTS TO NASIR AHMED	Nasir Ahmed from the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission. 4
NASIR AHMED TALKS ON CAMERA	<p data-bbox="743 1165 1455 1207"><u>NASIR AHMED</u> (ENGLISH) M</p> <p data-bbox="743 1218 1455 1438"><i>“The shallow aquifers are highly contaminated....The deep aquifer is one of the solutions to provide safe and sustainable water supply to the rural people.”</i> 10.5</p>
VILLAGE MEN WORKING ON THEIR WATER DEEP WELL	<p data-bbox="743 1491 1455 1533"><u>NARRATION</u></p> <p data-bbox="743 1543 1455 1753">Working in 12-hour shifts, these men drill deep into the ground to find safe water for a village. It will take a week to reach 700 feet, where water is free from arsenic. 12.5</p>
BOY PUMPING WATER, THEN A WOMAN ARRIVES	In the town of Chapai Nawabganj, the IAEA and World Bank have used isotope analyses to find

WOMAN PUMPS WATER

safe water. The discovery helps Bangladesh to save lives and money in investments needed for arsenic removal and water treatment plans.

18.5

WOMEN WALKING AT THE
RICEFIELD CARRYING URNS

People now know that the best treatment for arsenic poisoning is drinking safe water, says this villager. 6

VILLAGE WOMAN TALKS ON
CAMERA

VILLAGER (LOCAL DIALECT) F

“If we get safe water, that’s the real medication for us. Water is life. No one can live without safe water.” 7

WOMEN WALKING ON A RICEFIELD
WOMEN & BOYS AT THE WATER
DEEP WELL – PUMPING WATER
OUT

NARRATION

Enormous progress has been made in projects like these over the past 20 years, yet more needs to be done to ensure that clean drinking water in this country would remain arsenic-free long into the future. 14.5

UN LOGO CLOSING

This report was produced by Dana Sachetti for the United Nations. 5