

Arsenic Poisoning Prevention Program

Partnering with SIM -Bangladesh

Project Stories and Updates

Helping Provide Water Fit for Life

Who we are and what we do

As former workers in Bangladesh we are partnering with SIM-Bangladesh on a long-term project to help many more people escape the ravages of arsenic poisoning in drinking water in southern Bangladesh.

This project is entirely supported by donations (tax deductible).

See the bottom of the back page on how to donate.

Cost Effectiveness of the Arsenic Poisoning Prevention Program

There are so many desperate situations in our world; situations that end lives prematurely and leave many more disabled. With many of them, we may throw up our hands and ask “How can I possibly help in any meaningful way?” Happily, the arsenic crisis in Bangladesh is *not* one of these situations.

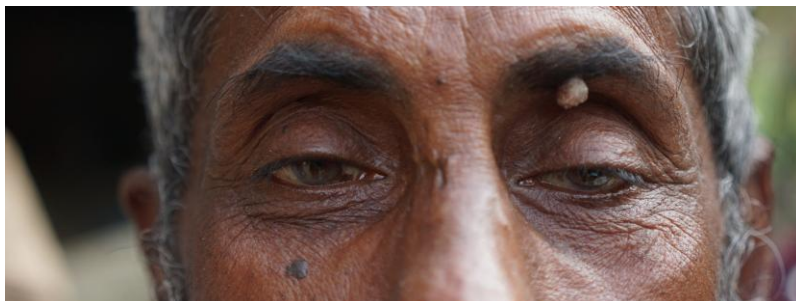
Helping families and individuals cope with the arsenic crisis can be done in very cost-effective ways. Lives will be saved and many more people have overall health and quality of life improved, and disabilities prevented, by some very simple and inexpensive steps.

The SIM-Bangladesh Arsenic Poisoning Prevention Program focuses on education, well water testing, distribution of subsidized water filters (if there is no safe well within a reasonable distance), medical care, and nutrition counseling (see next article for more details). None of these is very expensive. Here are examples of actual costs, in US dollars.

- Annual medical screening cost: \$2.50/patient (less than the cost of a coffee shop small latte)
- Annual medicine cost: \$7/patient (about the cost of a fast-food burger meal)
- Household filter (lasts at least 5 years): \$20 to project (less than the cost of ½ tank of gas); household pays remaining \$5
- Field test kit for arsenic, for 50 wells: \$70 (about the cost of 1 night in a budget hotel)
- 1 worker monthly salary: \$300 (less than the cost of 1 ticket to the upcoming Ohio State-Michigan University football game)

For comparison, an average rural Bangladeshi household subsists on about \$5 a day. Although far better than in the early days of Bangladesh (which became an independent country in 1971), this is still far from affluent North America; even with lower cost of living in Bangladesh. Lives can be saved with such a small investment. Will you help? (See end of newsletter for donation instructions.)

Story of Abdur Rab I am Abdur Rab Sheikh, I have a wife, two daughters and a son in my family. I am currently working as a night guard. All the boys and girls in my family are literate. I have been drinking our tubewell water for almost thirty years. About 4years ago I came to know through the APPP program that I was showing signs of



arsenicosis. They tested our tubewell water and said our tubewell water has arsenic levels of around 500. This is 10 times the level that is safe in drinking water [50 times the more stringent US safety standard]. I was advised not to cook or drink with this water. Later APPP took me to the doctor and confirmed that I am an arsenicosis patient. They treated me for 3 years. It was recommended to drink arsenic free water and eat sour fruits and vegetables of different colors. I am much better now. As suggested by them, I started a small vegetable garden at home, from which my family gets a lot of vegetables. After taking medicine for 3 years and changing my diet as per their advice I am fine drinking arsenic free water from the arsenic filter provided by APPP. I and my family thank God for to the APP program. I pray to God that the APP program can provide medical services to many more arsenic affected patients like me.



Prayer requests:

- Bill & Carole and our older son are visiting Bangladesh October 21-27. We will be visiting the new APPP expansion area, and meeting the new staff there for the first time. Also visiting the more established APPP areas and some of SIM-Bangladesh's other projects. Please pray for safe travel, and that we can be encouraging to the staff and others we meet.
- One long-time project staff member will be moving on into international missions and church planting. Pray for guidance for him, and that a very good replacement be found for his position.

Will you partner with us? Donation Information:

To make donations to this project, use the information below to give online, or by mail or phone to your country's SIM office. By phone or check, **be sure to specify Project #98335 Bangladesh arsenic**. Although all donations are welcomed and needed, the project could especially use recurring donations, to provide long-term stability. Donations are tax deductible.

SIM USA:

704-588-4300
14830 Choate Circle
Charlotte, NC 28273

Online donation details: <https://www.simusa.org/give>

- Under 'I want to support a specific SIM worker or project' type 'arsenic' and select 'Arsenic Awareness & Alleviation Program – Bangladesh'
- Select your contribution amount
- If desired, check 'make this an ongoing monthly gift'
- Fill in payment details & your info, then click 'submit donation'

SIM Canada:

1-800-294-6918
10 Huntingdale Blvd.
Scarborough, ON M1W 2S5

Online donation details: <https://www.sim.ca/donate>

- Click on 'Search Projects'
- In the search box, type 'arsenic' and select 'arsenic awareness and alleviation program'
- Enter donation amount & click 'add to basket'
- Check 'Recurring' if you want to make a monthly donation
- Fill in payment & billing info; then click 'process gift'