

Arsenic in drinking-water: a hidden poison



*“Rezaul Morol, a young Bangladeshi man, nearly died from arsenic poisoning caused by drinking arsenic-laden well-water for several years. The doctor advised Rezaul to stop drinking contaminated water and eat more protein-rich food such as fish. Since then Rezaul feels a lot better and is happy that his skin is healing.”
(Photo and original story: Asia Arsenic Network)*

Drinking water containing arsenic can lead to skin lesions and internal cancers. The effects may be delayed for years.



In Bangladesh, hundreds of thousands of people suffer from chronic arsenic poisoning and many more may eventually be affected.

Arsenic is found in ground-water in all continents. Which areas and how badly they are affected is not fully known.



In Bangladesh alone, 35-77 million people may drink arsenic-rich water.

There is still no reliable, affordable household treatment widely available to the countries most affected.



Changing to a safe well to protect family health may cost many more hours in collecting water.

Simple, reliable, low-cost testing equipment is essential to better understanding and solving the problem.



WHO's *Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality* set a norm of 0.01 mg/l for arsenic, because lower levels to better protect health cannot be reliably measured.

