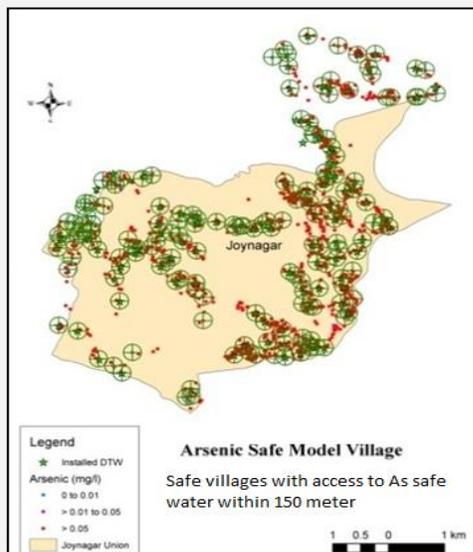


Women Participation and Equitable Access Tool for Safe Drinking Water Supply: An Experience from Arsenic Affected Rural Bangladesh



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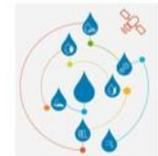


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Background

- Several countries in Asia cannot reach SDG-6.1 with arsenic in drinking water
- UNICEF MICS; 19.7M people in Bangladesh drank water with arsenic concentration > Bangladesh standard and 36 M people > WHO guideline
- Main problems in creating access: inequity to water points and poor operation & maintenance of the installed water devices
- The AR conducted by Environment and Population Research Centre (EPRC), in collaboration with UNICEF-Bangladesh, DPHE and the Dutch Embassy



The innovations



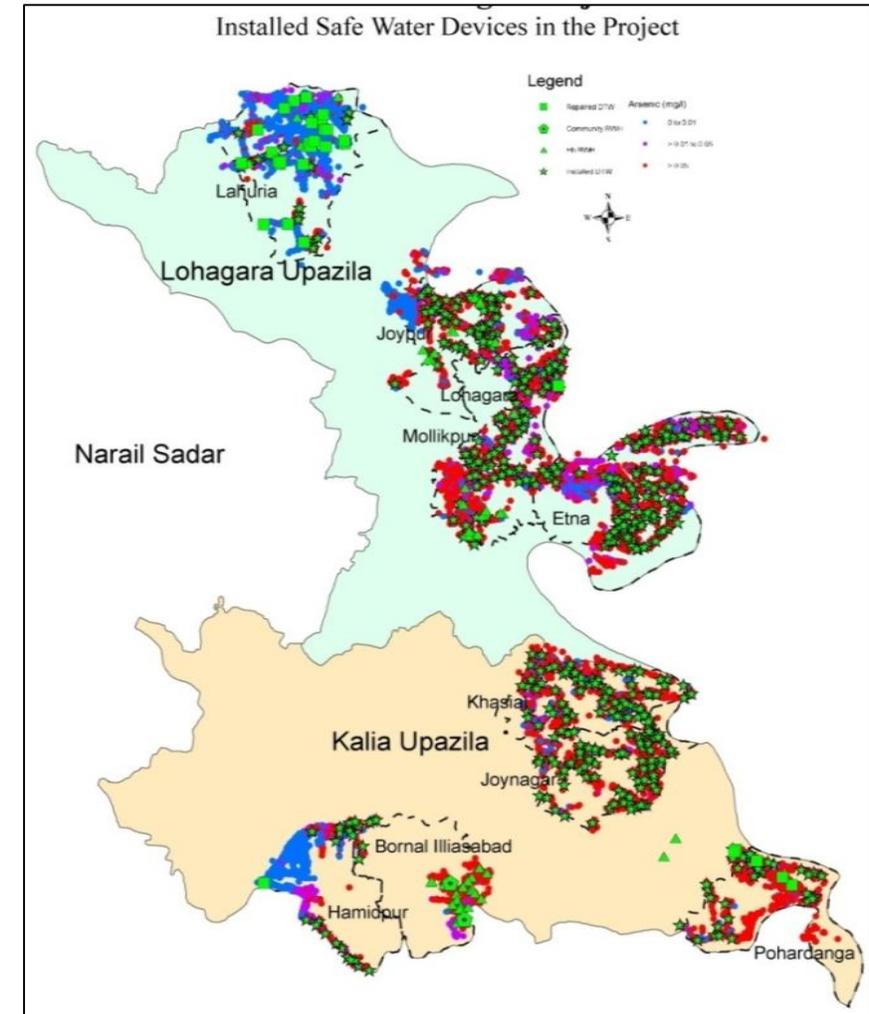
- Developed a GPS and GIS tool to determine appropriate site for community based water device
- Piloted:
 - ✓ LGI and local women based safe drinking water supply after women led appropriate site selections (with the tool)
 - ✓ O&M of the devices through Women for Environment and Livelihood (WEL)



Main achievement and activities

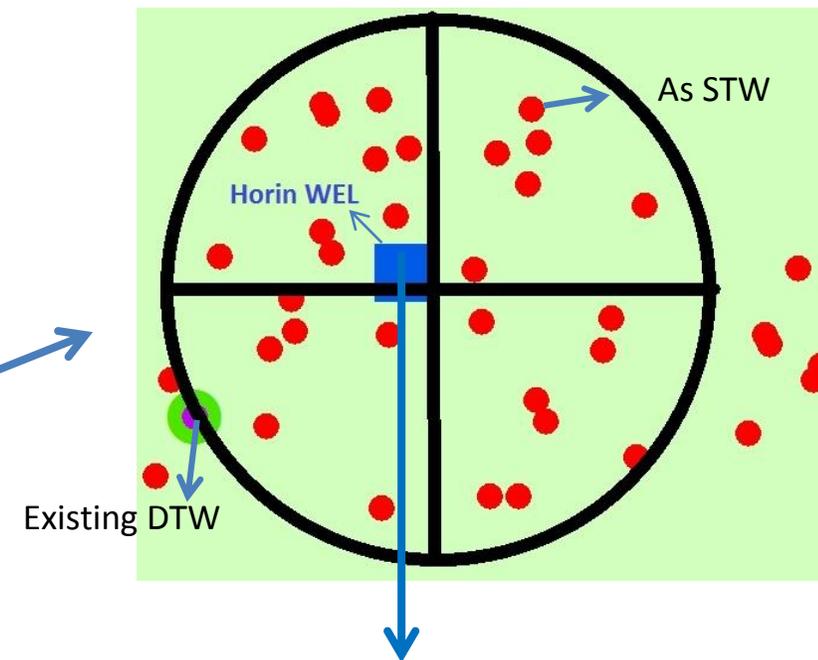
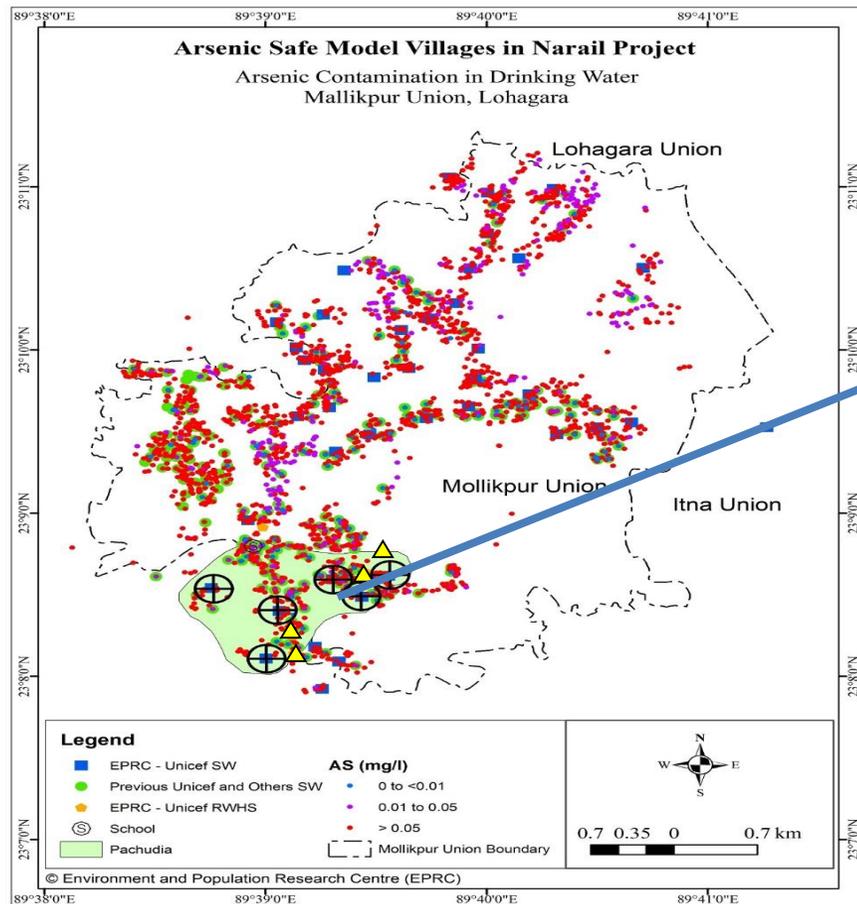
➤ Tested 19,705 TWs in 144 villages in Narail, Bangladesh

Screening results	Sub-project area		Total Area
	Kalia	Lohagara	
No. of TW Tested	6415	13290	19705
As cont.	4637 (72.3%)	7366 (55.4%)	12003 (60.9%)
As values (mg/l)			
Median	0.3	0.1	0.2
Mean	0.29	0.19	0.22

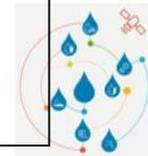


Main achievement and activities(contd.)

- Installed >500 community devices in women-led community selected (with the tool) and LGI approved sites
- Approximately 56,000 people supplied safe drinking water



- Project installed DTW,
- User hhs -36
- Dist: Max – 95 m & Min.-10 m



Main achievement and activities(contd.)

- 510 WEL groups (1/device), 3000 women, trained O&M based on the kinds of devices

Participation and Perception of WEL members (n=500)

- **Participated in:**

- Site selection 95
- Installation monitoring 87
- O&M 91
- WEL Linked to LGI 100

- **Increased confidence and dignity**

- In self 57
- In society 60

- **Institutionalization helped empowerment**

74



Scale-up Perspectives

- The developed tool for site selection:
 - highly appreciated for demand- conflict negotiations
 - supported equitable access to safe water
 - empowered women, community and LGI
 - used in UNICEF-DPHE projects
- The WEL :
 - created enabling environment for women-led sustainable drinking water supply
 - worked satisfactorily when WATSAN was inactive
 - >60% WEL found functioning 2 years after project



Conclusions and Recommendations

- Developed tool for equitable site selection.
- The WEL concept showed potentials for rural safe water supply in Bangladesh.
- Policies and strategies should include women participation in decision-making processes in specific terms
- Further R&D recommended under different conditions.

