WATER SUPPLY IN BHASHANTEK

At the end of November, 1,647 families (more than 7,400 persons), out of the 3,500 ones of Bhashantek slum (Dhaka), have access to a private tap providing safe drinking water. The Asian Development Bank, which renews the DWASA water system, completed the work in the area where Bhashantek is located. The old DWASA network being out of use, all illegal connections are no longer supplied, which leads to an important lack of water access in the slum. Thus, many dwellers are coming to subscribe to SJP network and more than 200 new connections were opened the last two months.

For the second phase of the project, to cover the remaining part of Bhashantek not yet supplied, an application for a connection authorization to two general bulk meters connected to DWASA network have been sent.

HYGIENE PROMOTION

The Global Hand Washing Day was celebrated by Water and Life and the slum’s dwellers on the 15th of October. This international event is a day to raise awareness among a simple behavior that can save lives: to wash hands with soaps at critical times!

44 children and their teachers from 3 schools of the slum participated to the rally organized that day. They walked in the streets of the slum, promoting the benefits and importance of washing hands with soap. A medical staff explained this necessity and made a demonstration, focusing on critical times and simple instructions.

Soaps, tee-shirts and towels were offered to the children and the dwellers to support the campaign. More than 200 dwellers were present at this event: children, adults, teachers, leaders.
SANITATION

A survey is currently carried out in Bhashantek to get a clear picture of the sanitation (latrines and sludge management) situation in the slum. A mapping of the existing latrines has been realized and some focus group discussions with the inhabitants have been made. Regarding the drainage, the mapping is ongoing.

On December, three people from Aquassistance (water and sanitation experts) came to assess the activities implemented and the sanitation situation, especially on the latrines and drainage system for waste water. Population expressed a real need for a functioning waste water evacuation system to ease the water from the individual tap to run out the households, as well as for latrines evacuation.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

The domestic solid waste management service, which is set up in partnership with Swisscontact, is significantly expanding in Bhashantek! Today, 416 families have subscribed to the daily waste collection service. Regarding this increasing number of clients, a second waste collector has been hired since November. Aquassistance experts also assessed this pilot project and made recommandations to improve the service.

The construction of the Dhaka North City Corporation transfer station of Bhashantek has recently started. This transfer station will be equipped with at least four main containers.

2015 IN FIGURES

- **7,400** persons and **12** public places receiving daily **910** people have access to drinking water
- **87** volunteers fire-fighters trained, **1** started fire handled
- **1,167** persons sensitized on hygiene (Global Hand Washing-Day, sessions with women and in schools)
- **5,044** metres of cementing paste, with irrigation for raining water
- **584** persons sensitized at the waste management and environment issues
- **416** families using the daily waste collection service
- Regular meeting with the communities and the leaders in a slum crowded of more than **3,500** persons

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