

## Media Release



KTH Royal Institute of Technology / International Society of Groundwater for Sustainable Development / Ramböll Water / United Nations Children's Fund

# Sediment Color Tool: Empowering local drillers for safe water provision

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Access to safe drinking water is a basic human right and an important component for effective public health protection. The widespread occurrence of natural arsenic (As) in groundwater in Bangladesh has drastically reduced the safe water access in Bangladesh. Keeping in view the magnitude of the human health impacts and the outcomes of the mitigation programs, the main challenge is to develop a sustainable mitigation option for scaling up safe water access. Tubewells are most widely accepted safe drinking water option, and ~90% of the tubewells are installed by the community based local tubewell drillers. Distinct relationship of sediment color and corresponding As concentrations in water has been documented through a number of recent studies. Using the local drillers' perception of sediment color and experience of tubewell installation, a Sediment Color Tool has been developed together with local driller's to identify As-safe aquifers in regions with high arsenic risk. The use of the tool will minimize the risk for high arsenic concentrations in the drinking water bringing significant change to reduce As exposure and scale-up access to safe drinking water in rural Bangladesh and thus enabling to meet the target of the SDG 6 in drinking water sector.