



December 19, 2006

On 9th December 2006, the Guyana Citizens' Initiative (GCI) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) visited the Mocha Arcadia community on the East Bank of Demerara to discuss with residents pathways of water contamination and methods to purify water for drinking to reduce the incidence of water related illnesses in their community. In attendance were approximately fifteen (15) community members, one official from GCI – Ms. Saudia Rahat', the water monitor from ECOCLUB Guyana and Dr. Teofilo Monteiro Environmental Officer from PAHO. The session was held at the Mocha Arcadia Nursery School.

One of the key activities was a demonstration on the use of a water testing kit, which was donated to the community by PAHO. The purpose of this demonstration was to equip members of the community with the knowledge and resource to test their water quality so that they could determine how much chlorine solution is required to purify their drinking water. The chlorination method was taught as one alternative for water treatment. Other methodologies that were taught included – solar disinfection, filtration and boiling. Collectively, these methods offer cheap alternatives for domestic water treatment.

The session stimulated many questions from the audience, particularly women that were present with their infants. Overall the members were very receptive to the presentation and requested more reading materials and presentations of this nature for more members of the community.

This presentation is the first of a number of presentations that will be delivered by PAHO and GCI as a collaborative effort.



Community members along with Officials from PAHO and GCI.