

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK)
Nashratpur, Gaibandha
Cold Situation Report- 1
Reporting Period: 6th January 2007

Gaibandha district is a remote and poverty prone northern district under Rajshahi division of Bangladesh that is comprised of 7 Upazilas, 82 Unions and 3 Municipalities. Apart from this, Gaibandha is also a natural disaster- afflicted district that is visited every year by natural calamities in different forms like flood, cyclone, river erosion, cold wave and monga (seasonal food crisis). At present the course of climate change is observed very often as a result there is no flood timely or rain sufficiently for which crops are not reaped satisfactorily and the sufferings of poor people know no bound. A Cold wave of medium scale observed occasionally since last week of November 2006. But for last 2 days its exposure has reached its severe stage as a result the sun is covered with cloud resulting dense fog and cold wave. The first spell of cold wave this winter has severely affected many people with respiratory and cold related diseases. Besides extreme cold,, heavy fog is also adding to the sufferings of the poor people. Bitter cold has confined almost all to their houses. People from lower income group, especially the day labourers are suffering the most as they can neither go out for work nor they can afford to buy warm clothes. In this severe cold the worst hit sufferers are children, old, disable and lactating mothers specially of far island char. The condition of the poor people living in thatched houses and on embankment has reached its unmeasured scale of sufferings. They are now caught with different cold afflicted diseases like cold fever, dysentery and pneumonia. The prices of essential food and warm cloth are very high so they are suffering much. Seedbed of paddy turns its yellow colour due to excessive cold mixed with dense fog. Leaves of vegetable garden are attacked with virus. Cattle are not also free from cold. Rate of death of poultry caused by severe cold is alarmingly increasing. In Gaibandha, three people died in the cold wave. They are Mainul Haque, 72, Asma Bewa, 65, of island char kaptasia and a minor Aminul Islam of Belka village. In being such a terrible situation of severe cold wave neither the people of main land nor far island char have received any material support till now. Another more death report from Udakhali Union is Farida Begum 30 pregnant wife of Makles Mia died of pneumonia on 5th January last. The people of this area think that it would be better if the cold afflicted poor peopl were provided with warm clothes to protect cold tosome extent.

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