

## WFP Rangpur Sub Office Situation Report on Cold Wave in North West, 7 January 2007

The extreme poor in 16 districts under Rajshahi division are struggling to survive the severity of recent cold wave. Most of them are landless and homeless people and cannot afford to manage adequate warm clothing. The northern part of this region in close proximity of the Himalayan range, the lives of such extreme poor people become miserable when the cold wave starts blowing. Many of them are now suffering from cold related diseases such as cold fever, dysentery, pneumonia etc. There is dispute over the number of deaths reported in the media, usually not agreed by the Govt. officials. Reported number of death cases due to the cold spell and for general reasons are not disaggregated.

In Kurigram district, the movement of poor people has reduced due to heavy cold and foggy weather. Thus the income of ultra poor families has reduced. The costs of essential goods and warm cloths have increased. The agriculture production such as BORO paddy, wheat and potato are expected to be affected due to excessive cold and the dense fog.

The GoB and some NGOs distributed blankets and warm clothes among the cold stricken people. The district wise status of relief distribution is shown in the Table below. It is assumed that the extreme poor, roughly about 25 percent<sup>1</sup> of total population, in general are affected.

Sl No.	District	Affected Population (25% of total Population)	Suffering from cold related diseases	No. of Deaths	GoB Response			NGO Response			
					Item	Quantity	Distribution dates	Name of NGO	Item	Quantity Distributed	Distribution dates
1.	Rangpur	6,33,500	20	-	Blanket	4500	As of 7 Jan				
2.	Kurigram	4,45,500	181	06	Blanket	7000	As of 7 Jan	RDRS	Blanket	980	As of 7 Jan
3.	Lalmonirhat	2,72,250	63	01	Blanket	6000	As of 7 Jan	RDRS	Blanket	735	As of 7 Jan
4.	Nilphamari	3,87,750	Unknown	-	Blanket	8000	As of 7 Jan	RDRS	Blanket, Clothes	625+276	As of 7 Jan
5.	Thakurgaon	2,99,000	Unknown	03	Blanket	6000	As of 7 Jan	RDRS, ESDO	Blanket, Clothes	400+200	As of 7 Jan
6.	Panchagarh	2,07,250	Unknown	07	Blanket	6000	As of 7 Jan	RDRS	Blanket, Clothes	400+200	As of 7 Jan
7.	Dinajpur	6,54,500	Unknown	-	Blanket	8000	As of 7 Jan				
8.	Gaibandah	5,29,500	Unknown	03	Blanket	2230	As of 7 Jan				
9.	Bogra	7,47,000	Unknown	03	Blanket	3000	As of 7 Jan				
10.	Sirajganj	6,76,750	Unknown		Blanket	2000	As of 7 Jan				
11.	Pabna	5,38,500	Unknown		Blanket	5000	As of 7 Jan				
12.	Natore	3,80,250	Unknown		Blanket	3500	As of 7 Jan				
13.	Joypurhat	2,11,250	Unknown		Blanket	1500	As of 7 Jan				
14.	Noagaon	5,94,250	02		Blanket	3894	As of 7 Jan				
15.	Rajshahi	5,65,500	06		Blanket	2000	As of 7 Jan				
16.	C. Nawabganj	3,54,750	03		Blanket	3500	As of 7 Jan				

**Recommendation: Warm clothes, Blankets, HEB etc. may be distributed among the cold wave victims. Organizations may jointly respond to address the situation.**

<sup>1</sup> Rate of hard core poverty, CBN (cost for basic needs) method, HIES 2005, BBS.