

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK)

Nashratpur, Gaibandha

Cold Situation Report –3

Reporting Period: 16 January, 2007

The cold wave now sweeping the country has paralyzed life here, particularly of the poor and the farmers in the rural areas. Last week was the coldest for dwellers of this area in recent year as spells of cold wave enveloped the whole area. The children, the elderly and the working class of this area suffered the most during this time. Weather forecast office predicts that the new spell of cold wave may hit again between January 20 and 25. But it has started blowing severely again for last several days. Moreover, it has griped most vulnerable parts of this area. The sun is visible but it starts sweeping after afternoon severely carrying dense fog. Bone chilling cold with fog even at daytime affects day laborers and farmers who cannot go to field for works. Children and the elderly are most likely to suffer from diarrhea and pneumonia if they are exposed to low temperatures for a long duration of time. Temperature came down to 7. 1 Celsius last night. During the cold wave, the less privileged working class suffered immensely. These groups of people have no other option but to be exposed to the bone-chilling cold as their work involves in the open field, river and driving in the unbearable cold. People living in river basin area, far island chars and on embankment are the worst hit of this bone chilling cold. This unbearable situation is still going to continue unabated. Help from GO and NGO so far been extended for this cold affected people is not sufficient to their minimum need. The severe cold wave this time has claimed four more lives. They are as Md. Rabiul Alim-38, Latsala village, Sundarganj, Mst. Majiran panprodan-54, Nijam kha embankment, Sundarganj, Moslem Uddin, Bamanjal village, Sundarganj and Abdul Khalek-60, Pashchim Khatiamari, Fazlupur.

Responses

We have already completed our survey report visiting all the affected areas and we observed them seriously afflicted by cold numbering about nine lakh families facing this problem directly.

GUK has distributed warm cloths for 1,723 families and health support for 289 patients with the assistance of HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL and SHAPLA NEER.

GOB allotted Tk 50 thousand for purchasing warm clothes covering 7 Upazilas and equally distributed. Besides, district administration has distributed 6000 blankets for 7 Upazilas.

Prepared by: Documentation Cell of GUK.