

CAUTION 2

Special attention for children and new born babies to protect them from cold spell

Normal life of Dhaka city and the districts of Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and the regions of Kushtia, Jessore, Satkhira and Tangail are being affected badly due to the sweeping of cold wave. Met bulletin said, the temperatures fall due to decrease in humidity and the blowing of Himalayan winds from the north and northwestern directions. <http://www.bmd.gov.bd/Content.php?MenuId=44&SubMenuId=22>

The number of pneumonia, asthma, respiratory and diarrhoeal patents, mostly the older persons, children and new born babies, continues increasing in the upazila and district level hospitals. Media has already reported that total number of 13 people (3 child, 2 women & 8 men) died due to cold related diseases from December 14 to 28, 2014. (Samakal 14 & 28 December, Ittefaq, Prothom alo 27 December, 2014).

Foundation for Disaster Forum recommends following measures to be taken to reduce peoples suffering from Cold Wave:

- **New Born Baby Don't Need Immediate Bath:** Traditional attitude towards pregnant mother and new born babies have to be changed. Often the mothers were kept in the floor before delivery and the newborns and the mothers are washed with cold water after the delivery. These practices cause serious health hazards which often risk lives.
- **Distribution of Old Cloths Should Not Be Promoted If It Not Laundry Properly:** Distribution of old and used cloths should not be encourages. If any organizations have already planned to distribute old cloths, they have to laundry the clothes properly to avoid health hazards like Hepatitis A, TB and other communicable disease.
- During cold waves peoples, especially children are affected by Diarrhoea. Children do not want to take oral saline due to cold. In this situation we can keep the saline water pot in a bigger pot with warm water for maintaining normal temperature. Besides this we can give children rice starch, liquor of tea with sugar and salt, lemon juice with warm water.



To reduce loss of lives and livelihoods and to make people aware about the coping methods in cold wave, you can see **“Cold Wave: Ways of protecting lives and livelihoods” (Bangla version) published by Disaster Forum.** This book is available at Disaster Forum. The price of the book is Tk. 300 (Three hundred taka only).

This book contains following issues:

1. **Health (Care of new born babies)**
2. **Agriculture**
3. **Aquaculture and**
4. **Livestock**