



News Release

WFP Delivers Emergency Food To 120,000 Disaster Victims

Dhaka, Thursday, 5 October 2006: The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is distributing 71 tons of high energy biscuits worth Tk. 3.6 million among 120,492 water-logged and storm-affected poor people in the southwest and coastal areas. The current disaster is a result of floodwater and drainage problems with the severe rain during late September.

The water logging in three Southwestern districts affected one million people. The severe storm in the Bay of Bengal reportedly caused at least 100 deaths to the fishing community with many reported missing. Family members of missing fishermen are unable to satisfy their minimum food requirements due to the loss of income earners.

“These ready-to-eat biscuits provide an essential supplement to the meagre food available”; said Douglas Broderick, the WFP Country Representative in Dhaka. High energy biscuits are not only important as a rich source of calories and energy, but also provide at least 50% of the adult recommended daily requirement of essential vitamins and minerals.

The AusAid (Australia) has provided US\$ 47,000 to support the relief operation. DFID (UK) has helped WFP and its partners to improve disaster preparedness and response.

“We have planned as carefully as possible to reach the neediest and most vulnerable people in the areas and through a transparent beneficiary selection process the food assistance is being distributed amongst the ultra-poor that have been worst affected. And at least 60% of the beneficiaries are women” said Broderick. WFP staff members will monitor the distributions of food in coordination with other NGOs.

Notes to Editors: Coastal Embankment project (CEP), implemented from 1961 –1967, has caused severe environmental consequences in Southwest Bangladesh. Water-logging is a symptom of the consequences of CEP, which caused serious disruption to the lives and livelihood of one million people of the number of districts of the area. Since 2001, severity of water logging is increasing every year and sufferings of the people are increasing simultaneously. The repeated floods in the adjoining waterlogged areas especially 52 perennial wetlands of Jessore, Satkhira and Khulna districts have already caused massive havoc at the very beginning of the current rainy season.

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