‘Tahafuz’ is a Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) project that aims to build capacities of local communities in order to enable them to resist hazards, bounce back after disasters and acclimatize themselves as per circumstantial needs to ensure effective recovery. Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), this project benefits an estimated 110,879 households in four disaster high risk districts of Sindh, namely Badin, Thatta, Umarkot and Tharparker.

Ms. Saima, aged 12 is a sister of a little boy named Nazir Ahmad, aged 4, narrated that couple of weeks ago her brother fell into a small water catchment which is located couple of yards away from her home. She mentioned that the catchment area usually remain dry in off season but during heavy rains water is harvested up to 4 feet on a very small portion of land.

While narrating incident she said when the incident occurred she was the first one who saw her brother in water, but she was not sure enough about how long her brother might have remained in water before her eyes caught him. Having realized about her brother being suffocated in water she was confounded with extreme pain and misery as she narrated while crying with grief and sorrow.

Adding further she said she was badly debilitated at the time when she actually saw her brother unconscious and lifeless when she approached him. She mentioned while making rescuing efforts her loud cries also got her family’s attention towards her who then also rushed towards her.
She said having been badly devastated with the scene, for her to save her brother’s life by pulling him out of the water was not an easy task, but nevertheless she somehow managed pulling him out until somebody else could arrive for help. However, knowing nothing about how she could further help to reinstate her brother’s life back to normal her incapacity to deal with the situation kept on upsetting and shattering her determination again and again.

Her uncle Mr. Ameer Ali, is a member of the Village Disaster Management Committee that was established by NRSP in the Jarkas revenue village of district Badin. Mr. Ameer Ali has also been remained a part of the VDMC trainings under which the participants were trained on Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment and Disaster Risk Management and Planning in addition with training sessions on how to provide first aid, search and rescue services during emergency situation.
Mr. Ameer Ali in conversation with Monitoring Officer

Sister Ms. Saima explaining incident
Given the scene, Mr. Ameer Ali the uncle of the child, who never had come across such an incident in his life was finally facing a huge challenge of saving someone’s life who is that close to him in relation. He initially began the treatment by tapping on back of the child and then decided to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). While explaining Mr. Ameer Ali said after giving heart compression and ventilating child for couple of rounds the child’s life was saved luckily. Mr. Ameer said they waited till the child gained some consciousness after which he was immediately transported to nearby available medical assistance that was located about 3 km from their home.