

The role of local institution in reducing vulnerability!

Oct, 2014

During last week of the October 2014, an alert concerning the development of a tropical cyclone named “Nilofar”, issued by various local/international sources created a turmoil situation in the country. The pressure kept on mounting as on Tuesday 28th October, the cyclone which was expected to cause damage to parts of Oman, Pakistan and India was reported to have reached a devastating intensity of 215 km/h (equivalent to 134 mph).



The settlement Mallah of the newly formed VDMC Waryaro (under Tahafuz II) from the union council Bhugra Memon, which was being considered under severe threat of the Nilofar Cyclone

It was believed that if the cyclone could have sustained its existing speed and or kept on increasing its intensity while approaching towards the coastal line of the Pakistan region severe damages could have been inflicted on areas along the coastal line of district Karachi, Badin and Thatta. However, contrary to the above, heavy downpours were considered more imminent irrespective of the storm speed.

Considering the recurrence of cyclonic/rain flooding threats and the distantly located population that are settled near the coastal line of Badin district, averting the impact of devastation had always been a great challenge for authorities due to lack of planning and resources. Pertaining to the troublesome ground reality, RSPN under one of its USAID OFDA supported initiative

named “Tahafuz” created various community based village and union disaster management committees from within the most vulnerable UCs of the Badin district for providing immediate response and support to people during emergency situations.

During the recent uproar of the Nilofar threat, an old UDMC named Kadhan that had been capacitated on CBDRM during earlier phase of the Tahafuz project held an emergency meeting on 27th October 2014. The meeting aimed on discussing the significant role that their UDMC could play in helping out vulnerable communities from the neighboring areas since their location happened to be out of the danger zone. Conclusively, they decided to provide selected emergency tool kit items to a village named Mallah of VDMC Waryar from the union council Bhugra Memon based on its recognition as the most vulnerable village due to its close positioning to the sea shore and people’s dependence on fish hunting for their living.



Chairman LSO (left) and President UDMC (right) presenting kit items to the Manager UDMC Bhugra Memon (extreme right)

In pursuit of transporting emergency tool kit to village Mallah, the UDMC Kadhan President Mr. Mithon along with the LSO Chairman Mr. Raza Mohammad Shah undertook a two and a half hour drive to reach the destination. They both were welcomed by Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed, manager of the recipient UDMC Bhugra Memon that has been newly established under new award of the Tahafuz project. While at village Mallah, the President of the UDMC Kadhan explained the purpose of their visit first and afterwards distributed some items from the emergency tool kit that was earlier provided to UDMC Kadhan under the initial phase of the Tahafuz. The kit items included 04 life jackets, a radio and a torch as well as a mega phone. Concerning to the care of kit items, Mr Imtiaz assured that items will be safely returned back to UDMC Kadhan as soon as

the threat alert fizzles out safely. During the interaction, the UDMC President Mr. Mithon and the Chairman LSO also demonstrated the use of the emergency items that were temporarily provided to them.



LSO Chairman and UDMC President demonstrating how to install and utilize the kit items

The manager of the recipient UDMC, Mr. Imitiaz Ahmed, while expressing his feelings mentioned that he has been much surprised and overwhelmed by the support that has been shown by the UDMC President and the LSO Chairman. He added that following the same principle their UDMC too will keep extending their arms and support to other vulnerable communities. In the end he paid special thanks to USAID and RSPN for making people believe in themselves as well as making them learn how to become helping hands of each other.