

UDMCS: Bridge between Communities and Authorities

USAID funded Tahafuz CBDRM Project is working with most vulnerable communities in four districts of Sindh Province. Capacity building at grass root level is the main focus of this project. Different types of capacity building sessions are designed for the community members at village and Union Council (UC) level. One of the focused areas of these events is Advocacy & Networking where the community representatives are taught how to raise voice for their rights and how to convince the authorities for addressing needs of deprived communities.

Recently heavy floods caused havoc in different parts of the country. Condition was worst in the province of Punjab where large area under crops was inundated by floods bringing irreparable losses for the rural communities. Some urban areas and cities were equally damaged.

This created an alarming situation in the project area as two Union Councils namely Keenjhar and Ali Bahr lie in the way of River Indus. The provincial disaster management authority and district disaster management authorities issued warnings to the potential target communities. Similar action was taken in Sujawal (Thatta) where district administration called a consultative meeting with all stakeholders.



The Union Disaster Management Council (UDMC) members from these vulnerable UCs participated in these consultative meetings and offered their services for gathering first hand data from these UCs. District administration appreciated this offer and provided them transport facility to go from house to house and collect information. These teams visited all endangered villages in UCs Ali Bahr, Bijora and Belo and came up with authentic data for developing emergency relief plans. Here it is worth mentioning that UDMC has been formed in only one of these UCs i.e. Ali Bahr. The local administration hailed the support provided by UDMC members and assured them of full support from the authorities in case of any emergency. They

exchanged contact numbers to build firm relations. Even the authorities at provincial level asked for their contacts. “They will be our eyes and ears in the real field conditions”, said the Director Operations PDMA Sindh, “and we will benefit from their first hand information for handling any emergency.”

Following is the list of UDMC members who worked with local administration for collecting baseline information

S. No	UDMC	Name of members
1	UDMC ALI Bahar	Basher Ahmed
		Abdul Razaque
		Najeebullah
		Manzoor Ali
		Abdul Razaque
		Parial Ghoto
2	UDMC Keenjhar	Gulsher Mallah
		Allah Bachaio
		Saleem Khaskheli
		Dildar Khaskheli
		Ghulam Hyder Aamro
		Ghulam Muhammad Bhatti
		Abdul Wahid