

## Community initiatives for early preparedness to face Disaster:

The tropical cyclone Nilofar was expecting to hit the coastal line of Sindh province in Pakistan as the potential threat had reached an intensity of almost 134 mph on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct 2014. According to metrological department it was also believed that contrary to the intensity of storm, heavy rain fall was still expected in District Thatta, Badin and Karachi till 31<sup>th</sup> Oct 2014.

RSPN along with its partner RSPs established local institutions at Village and UC level to build the capacity of the community under an initiative named Tahafuz. The local institutions (village and Union Disaster management Committee) have been formed within the most vulnerable UCs of four districts of Sindh for providing immediate support/mitigate the hazardous situations.

“Early preparedness is a positive approach towards enhancing the coping capabilities of communities, according to Ali Muhammad president UDMC Kohti District Sujawal while expressing his views about the cyclone (Nilofar)”. He added, in this regard we held a meeting at UDMC level for planning, how to cope with recent alerting scenario? During the meeting 04 committees were established on need basis comprising of 05 members each. They were assigned distinctive roles as, to disseminate information through early warning, identification of safer places, search/rescue, and camp management. These members were then advised to keep an eye on the situation and contact the UDMC in case of hazardous situations.



President UDMC Kohti District Sujawal expressing his views about early preparedness of the community in responds to the Tropical Cyclone (Nilofar).

While expressing his feelings he told that I myself had subscribed to SMS services (40404)/Thatta news and shares updates about the Nilofar cyclone among the community.

He told that almost 500 boats had been in open sea. They were communicated informations through a Wireless Communication device available at each boat. They were advised to return from sea since their lives could be in danger.



Figure 1 and 2 (Left to Right) various source of communication used by UDMC Kohti District Sujawal for alerting the community against the cyclone. Fig. 3 (L to R) shows Banners displayed by local Administration showing information about relief camps.

The Government/local administration displayed banners about relief camps at various accessible locations throughout the district. Information about these camps was thoroughly shared with the community.

He explained that prior to the formation of these local institutions; they used to handle hazardous situations in un-organized manner. He agreed that by providing several trainings on CBRM, RSPN played a vital role in enlightening the awareness vision of the community. In the end he paid thanks to USAID and RSPN, for capacity building and raising their knowledge to withstand natural hazards and disasters properly.

(Shah Faisal)