**LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS (LSOs)**

LSOs are federations of Community Organizations (COs) and Village Organizations (VOs); LSOs are a network of people’s own organizations at Union Council level. The key objective of LSOs is hand holding and mentoring of member organizations. LSOs are also expected to foster linkages with other stakeholders and to mobilise local resources to support member organizations. RSPs are playing vital role in institutional capacity building of these LSOs. RSPN and RSPs believe that the local people have great potential, which needs to be explored. These institutions can play important role in preparedness of local community to deal with disasters and emergencies in an effective way. Where LSOs exist, UDMCs have been integrated with LSOs.

RSPs/partners are facilitating LSO training on DRR. Following are the details of the modules:

- **Module 1:** Introduction and Overview of Key Concepts
- **Module 2:** Roles of UDMCs, Core Principles of CBDRM
- **Module 3:** CBDRM Process, DRM Cycles
- **Module 4:** Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness Measures
- **Module 5:** Emergency Response Skills (Search and Rescue, First Aid, Firefighting)
- **Module 6:** DRR Integration in LSOs
- **Module 7:** DRR Advocacy

**RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK (RSPN)**

The Rural Support Programmes Network is the largest development network of Pakistan, with an outreach to over 38 million rural Pakistanis. It consists of 11 member Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) that espouse a common approach to rural development: social mobilization. Social mobilization centers around the belief that poor people have an innate potential to help themselves, and that they can better manage their limited resources if they organize and are provided technical and financial support. The RSPs provide social guidance, and technical and financial assistance to the rural poor. RSPN is the strategic platform for the RSPs: it provides capacity building, research, knowledge management support to them, and assists them in policy advocacy and donor linkages.

| ACHIEVEMENTS |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| **3,449 VDMCs MEMBERS** | **1,746** |
| WERE TRAINED ON COMMUNITY BASED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT | **1,703** |
| **406 UDMCS MEMBERS** | **214** |
| WERE TRAINED ON ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT AND ADVOCACY & NETWORKING | **192** |
| **44,251 COMMUNITY MEMBERS** | **23,513** |
| PARTICIPATED IN DRR AWARENESS SESSIONS | **20,738** |

**DISCLAIMER**

“This material is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of Rural Support Programmes Network and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.”
RSPN has developed a comprehensive training manual on Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) for the capacity building of RSPN and partner RSPs' staff. This training manual has been tested and implemented at the organizational level. During the initial phase of the Tahafuz Project, Training of Trainers (TOT) was conducted to develop a team of facilitators for transferring CBDRM/Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) knowledge and skills to implementing partners and later at grass roots level. The manual is available in English and Sindi languages. Following are the details of the modules covered:

Module 1: Introduction and Overview of Key Concepts
Module 2: Participatory Disaster Risk Assessments
Module 3: Participatory Disaster Risk Management Planning
Module 4: Community Managed Implementation
Module 5: Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
Module 6: Emergency Response Skills (Search and Rescue, First Aid, Firefighting)
Module 7: Cross-Cutting Themes (Immunization, Livestock Management, Hygiene Promotion)

VILLAGE DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VDMC)

It is a community institution which is established by people at revenue village level. Main functions of VDMC are to conduct participatory risk assessment, development of Disaster Risk Management Plans (DRMPS) and implementation of DRR activities. Moreover, strengthening early warning system, sensitization and awareness raising on DRR are also among the other responsibilities of VDMC. Training officers at RSPs' level hold and conduct training events for VDMCs. Each training event is comprised of five days which covers the following modules on DRR:

Module 1: Introduction and Overview of Key Concepts
Module 2: Participatory Disaster Risk Assessments
Module 3: Participatory Disaster Risk Management Planning
Module 4: Community Managed Implementation
Module 5: Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
Module 6: Emergency Response Skills (Search and Rescue, First Aid, Firefighting)
Module 7: Cross-Cutting Themes (Immunization, Livestock Management, Hygiene Promotion)

UNION DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (UDMC)

The Union Disaster Management Committee is an extended arm of VDMCs, which is established at the union council level. It comprises of two designated members from each VDMC of the respective union council. This body provides leadership for linkages and liaisons development with district administration and other stakeholders in DRR related matters.

RSPs/Partners are facilitating UDMCs training on Organizational Management and Development and Advocacy and Networking. Following are the details of the modules:

Module 1: Introduction and Overview of Key Concepts/DRM system
Module 2: Communication Skills
Module 3: Leadership
Module 4: Advocacy and Networking
Module 5: DRR Advocacy Process
Module 6: Financial Management and Record Keeping
Module 7: Conflicts Resolution

INTRODUCTION

Since 2005 earthquake, Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) has been supporting emergency relief and early recovery efforts to meet the needs of calamity hit communities. Since 2010 floods, RSPN has focused on strengthening community resilience, particularly on capacity building of staff, Village Disaster Management Committees (VDMCs), Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMCs), Local Support Organizations (LSOs) and Community Resource Persons (CRPs). These efforts have been supported by the USAID/OFDA funded project titled Tahafuz: Building Resilience through Community Based Disaster Risk Management in the Sindh Province of Pakistan. RSPN is implementing this project in four districts of Sindh Province (Thatta, Badin, Tharparker and Umerkot) through its partner organizations, namely National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) and Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP).