

## We are prepared to protect ourselves!

Village Kherar is located 7 KM away from the main Sujawal City of Sindh. This village consists of 357 households and 2499 individuals. The village is prone to flood, heavy rains, and cyclone. The 2010 floods severely affected this area. Tahafuz Project interventions were started in this village in 2014 and social mobilization process was carried out for the establishment of community institution that could play its important role in dealing with disasters and emergency situation. In result of social mobilization, Village Disaster Management



Committee (VDMC) was formed at revenue village level which is responsible for disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts. Mr. Usman, VDMC member expresses, “we are very happy with the formation of this organization.”

VDMC members of Kherar were trained on CBDRM approach by NRSP team. This training enabled them to understand disaster risk assessment, planning and management. They also got equipped with emergency response skills like search and rescue, first aid and firefighting. “Now we are in better position to deal with disaster,” says Mr. Habib Ullah, VDMC member.

VDMC Kherar conducted Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment (Hazard, Capacity and Vulnerability), analyzed risks and developed Disaster Risk Management Plan (DRMP). Ms. Farzana, Community Resource Person (CRP), said that women also participated actively in hazard mapping.

VDMC is playing very important role in DRR awareness raising in the village. Ms. Farzana is conducting DRR sessions to transfer DRR knowledge to gross roots level. She states, “Tahafuz project gave me confidence and enabled me to speak in front of the people. Before Tahafuz project we were unhygienic and dangerous local intervention to cure wounds and to control bleeding, but now we are not doing those practices.” Community was sensitized to keep the important documents at safer places.

In the heavy rain fall of 2015, VDMC members played vital role in reducing losses. Mr. Usman, VDMC member recalls, “We were monitoring water level in irrigation canal on regular bases to update the people on flood situation.”

VDMC members also hired a house at safe location near Gharo to accommodate pregnant women during flood.

They told that VDMC members shifted the people to safer places during heavy rains and undertook relief work. They were in regular contact with Deputy Commissioner, NRSP team and media persons to share the flood situation. Mr. Habib, VDMC member says, “In 2010 flood there was panic situation but in current heavy rain they were more prepared, thus were not terrified of the situation.”



VDMC members said, “We have Rs. 2000 as committee joint savings that could be used in any emergency and we are encouraging people to contribute according to their capacity with an objective to use fund for the collective benefits of the people.

VDMC Kherar is better prepared now. Members are committed to continue the Disaster Risk Reduction work.