

A prepared, resilient neighborhood

Parveen is a Community Resource Person (CRP) of Village Disaster Management Committee (VDMC) of village Naukot in District Tharparkar. She says that distant geographical location and missing infrastructure and development in their area make them more prone to natural or manmade disasters. “Lack of awareness, limited knowledge and our inability to deal with any emergency increases our plight during disasters,” she opines.



Parveen was shortlisted to become CRP and started attending the training sessions organized by RSPN to transfer Disaster Risk Reduction knowledge at grassroots level and enable the deprived community members to effectively respond during emergencies.

After her successful selection as CRP, she then delivered DRR sessions at various target settlements of her revenue village. These sessions encompassed training on familiarizing community members with Disaster Risk Assessment, Disaster Risk Management & Planning, First Aid and Search & Rescue. The CRP initiative brought significant changes in the mindset of target members for handling untoward situations. Members’ experiences suggested that communities could play a role to reduce risks if they are well are prepared.

Maghan, a resident of settlement Ishque Chandio Kolhi, attended all sessions delivered by the CRP. Before this intervention he had no idea of how to conduct disaster risk assessment. The DRR awareness sessions enabled him to understand and developed risk management plans using different tools. He said, “These plans not only made him resilient but also enabled him to prepare and deal with any sort of disaster”.

Sajid, another resident of the area, shared his experience that once his cousin’s house caught fire and it was feared that it would also affect the neighbouring houses. However we did not panic and extinguished fire employing the techniques learnt during CRP sessions. He said that had they not attended the CRP sessions, they would have failed to control fire properly.

Nabi Bux, another trained community member narrated his story saying, “One of his relative’s sons — aged 7 — fell down from the rooftop while flying kite and became unconscious. Nabi Bux was approached for help and he performed Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) a couple of times which brought the child out of coma. The child was later shifted to a hospital for further treatment. The locals, who earlier were not interested in CRP sessions, decided to participate in the sessions to learn first aid skills to deal with unpleasant incidents.

Parveen said DRR sessions at settlement level helped thousands of members in minimizing losses during disasters and accidents. “Earlier when they had no awareness, they endured heavy losses during hazardous situations,” she recalled. “Now the community members are in a better position to withstand any disaster,” she firmly asserted. “We are thankful to USAID, RSPN and TRDP for making our lives better.”