

Disaster preparedness and mitigation: A VDMC's story

Revenue Village Dolo Sholani is located in one of the far off union council of Kharochan of District Thatta. The UC lies along the coastline, a significant part of which comprises the delta of the River Indus. Despite having close proximity to the coastal belt, no significant measures were taken by the government or any other organization to minimize risks for local communities,” said Sakina, a member of Village Disaster Management Committee (VDMC) of Dolo Sholani.



RSPN has initiated Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Tahafuz Project to organize and enable vulnerable communities to withstand disasters through social mobilization, capacity building initiatives and small scale mitigation & management measures. Working in four most disaster prone districts of Sindh province, the project has so far benefitted almost 350,736 households. Kharochan is one of the target union councils under this project.

Sakina further narrates, “When RSPN field team shared project’s objectives, most of the community members agreed to get benefitted from CBDRM approach. Earlier we used to deal with such situations in an unorganized, self-centred manner and these often caused more losses during untoward situations. Now using the platform of VDMC, we not only discuss village level issues during community meetings but also do planning and coordinate with departments concerned for their appropriate solutions. We are glad to be organized into local community institutions at village and union council level,” she said.

Allah Bux another VDMC member said, “We live near coastal belt, thus we are always at the risk of floods and high tides during monsoon season. Broken passages make it more difficult to move towards safer points during these alarming situations. When we were given a choice for rehabilitation of a Community Critical Infrastructure after conducting risk assessment, we opted for rehabilitation of the earthen road in our revenue village.”



He continued that he still remembers the floods of 2010, when he along with other villagers was trapped in the floodwater. It was quite a horrifying situation as he found no way out of water. The passages were mostly inundated. Now after rehabilitation of the earthen road, Allah Bux is confident to handle any similar situation more efficiently than 2010. He is now able to evacuate to safer points avoiding any harm to his family and livestock. He says, “This intervention will also improve socioeconomic conditions of villagers. Mostly dependant on fishing, the earthen road will provide a durable access for the villagers to fish markets and hence living standards of poor community would be improved.”