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Nooran: a woman behind a resilient community

Nooran Khoso is a midwife living in village Sawan Khoso, a settlement of 348 people, of Union Council Janki, District Sujawal. The villagers depend on farming, fishing and labour for livelihood.

Nooran's village was badly affected during heavy monsoon rains in 2010. Due to limited resources, less coordination and lack of awareness about disaster preparedness and social safety schemes, the villagers suffered enormous economic losses during disaster.

In 2013, National Rural Support Programme's team visited the village and selected it for RSPN's USAID funded community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Tahafuz Project's interventions.

The villagers then were mobilised to form Village Disaster Management Committees (VDMCs) that were later federated into the Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMCs). The members of these committees underwent various training sessions on disaster risk assessment, risk management and planning, and advocacy and networking. They were motivated to create linkages and coordination with the private and public sector organisations working on disaster risk reduction (DRR).



Nooran Khoso was one of the villagers who actively participated in meetings and attended capacity building training courses.

Narrating her story before Tahafuz project, Nooran says, "Following the losses we suffered during 2010, I was very skeptical about how we will protect ourselves if a similar incident occurs in the future. At this point, I decided to take part in the activities of humanitarian organisations working in our area." Nooran recalled the day when a team of young boys and girls came to her village and requested them for participating in a meeting. They introduced them to Tahafuz project and that they were required to form community institutions – VDMCs and UDMCs. They apprised the villagers on future plans for disaster risk reduction interventions.

Nooran, having no idea of DRR interventions and scope of work at that time, became part of Tahafuz project as Community Resource Person (CRP). She underwent training sessions and developed remarkable liaison with many other organisations.

Although Nooran has no proper education, she gained confident after becoming a CRP, as she now possesses effective presentation skills to orient the audience about her village and geographic scenario. She conducted numerous awareness sessions settlement level. Her villagers have now better understanding of disasters and measures to respond to disasters in an organised way. They now know about the importance of immunisation, livestock vaccination, safe retention of important documents and plantation as part of preparedness against disasters.

"My community's trust that I will stand by their side in difficult situations is a feeling I cherish the most. I thank USAID, RSPN and NRSP for instilling that confidence in me," she concludes.

