

**Komak Project - Success Story - Thatta**  
**Health Care and Water – the story of Mehrunissa Ameer**

Mehrunissa Ameer, a 35 year old resident of Natho Radar Samo, union council Kalankot in district Thatta was one of the selected beneficiaries to receive seven Komak interventions. Her husband worked at a hotel and she took care of the wheat and rice fields. Her husband and three children were devastated when the floods came. Her family and she fled the village as soon as they could and went to Makli where other villagers were taking refuge. “We had no tent and were living under the open sky. I felt very scared for my children.” said Mehrunissa.

She amongst other beneficiaries had to face many health issues

during the flood including skin allergies, cough, Diarrhoea, high fever, and Malaria. She complained that there was no BHU

nearby and her husband had to walk 6km to the hospital where the medication was expensive and one allergy vaccination cost Rs. 1,100. The handpumps were damaged and she and her family had no choice but to drink unclean water till the handpumps were installed by NRSP on behalf of Komak.

During the floods her family had to face a lot of problems in getting loans from landlords as they themselves faced a lot of loss during the flood. Somehow they managed to get funds and her husband had started growing rice and wheat. She said that the fields would be ready for harvesting in the next few months.

They used grass or chop up to feed their animals and had a total of four cows, four calves and a goat. They were provided with food ration, mosquito nets, and tents through NRSP. Mehrunissa requested NRSP to help her reconstruct the roof of her house during the assessment, as she did not have sufficient money to build it. She had not received the ‘watan card’ and was very troubled about running her house. Mehrunissa was ecstatic to receive the tarpaulin sheet provided on behalf of Komak, she said, “The tarpaulin sheet is very strong and prevented the rain and wind from coming in. I used it as a shade and also to cover the roof of my house.”



Figure 1: Mehrunissa Ameer



Figure 2: Tarpaulin sheet being used to cover one side of the house

She said the handpumps installed in her village helped her from walking long distances to get clean water and the water purification tablets helped further, as it reduced the health problems w.r.t water borne diseases.

She was very grateful to NRSP and said that the interventions through Komak and DFID had helped her immensely. "The animal feed supplement has made my animals stronger. Milk had increased up to 2 kilos and the supplement is sufficient for the next 2-3 months."

She said, "The hygiene session and kits are so useful that I will make sure I buy these even when they get over." Health had improved and there were lesser medical problems to cater to, therefore money was being saved she said.