



# LASOONA

Society for Human and Natural Resource Development

## CASE STUDY

### Minimizing Risks through Capacity building on CBDRM



*Today, my family members are alive, my livestock is here with me and above all there is shelter left to stay in with my family. I am thankful to LASOONA and rescue committee established by LASOONA”, said by Mr. Adil*

**CHALLENGE** Tanazgaah is a small hamlet of thirty houses located in village new Mankyal Union Council-Mankyal, District Swat. Livelihoods of the people were badly affected by flash floods in 2010. Steep slopes with frequent land sliding and soil erosion characterize the area. The area has witnessed frequent disasters in the near past in the shape of floods, heavy snow, land sliding and soil erosion. Despite the persistent risk of so many natural hazards, the people are not prepared to respond effectively and timely to any disaster. Precious lives have been lost in the past due to remoteness of the area, limited skills in search, rescue and lack of preparedness plans.

**INITIATIVE** For short and medium term food security and disaster prevention, LASOONA launched a two years project in flood affected districts of Swat, Shangla and Kohistan. Apart from other rehabilitation and recovery interventions, strengthening capacities of the local population on disaster risk management was one of the significant activities. In order to analyze the extent of vulnerabilities and existing local capacities of the people, hazard, vulnerability and capacity assessment exercises were conducted in each target villages. Assessment findings paved the way to carry out organize efforts to build local capacities and reduce vulnerabilities.

In order to develop local capacity to manage risks, disaster management committees and emergency response teams were constituted and trained on search and rescue, first aid, preparedness and evacuation plans. The trained teams have also been equipped with DRR kits.

**RESULTS** It was the first week of November 2012 when a fire broke in the houses of Mr. Adil and his brother Muhammad Zahir Shah, both the houses were entangled in flames. It was a day time and most of the men were busy in the fields or doing labor. No one was around to rescue women, children and livestock although few people



from the neighboring houses tried their level best to control the fire but were unable to control it as they were not trained and equipped to deal the situation. The crowd gathered quickly. One of the villagers contacted the recently trained emergency response team if they could help the vulnerable. Majority of the team members were available in the village, while the DRR kit was placed in the main village, which is quite away from the hamlet Tanazgaah, once the member was informed regarding this accident, they rushed the DRR kit along and rest of the members to the place of fire.

*“When the Emergency Response Team arrived at the place of fire, they quickly arranged in 4 teams, one of the teams was assigned the task to rescue the women and children along with livestock and other precious things, the second team started collecting water from the nearby tap stand using plastic pipes, the third team separated the house from the portion where fire was flaming through axes and digger and one of the teams was busy in collecting sand and clay for extinguishing the fire” said by Mr. Adil*

The CBDRM committee quick response mitigated huge loss to human lives, livestock and other assets as one of the members rescued the family when they were standing beneath the wooden beam, which also got enflamed. As soon as the family was rescued after few minutes the wooden beam was zero ground, and if not recued in time that would have led to huge human loss.

*“I have lost one portion of my house which carried beds quilts/beddings, hey and utensils. I roughly estimated the loss, which is 730,000 rupees, but I am fortunate that my family members remained unhurt due to the rescue committee efforts. Today, my family members are alive, my livestock is here with me and above all there is shelter left to stay in with my family. I am thankful to LASOONA and rescue committee established by LASOONA.”, said by Mr. Adil*