

## LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS (LSOs)

LSOs are federations of Community Organizations (COs) and Village Organizations (VOs); LSOs are a network of people's own organizations at Union Council level. The key objective of LSOs is hand holding and mentoring of member organizations. LSOs are also expected to foster linkages with other stakeholders and to mobilise local resources to support member organizations. RSPs are playing vital role in institutional capacity building of these LSOs. RSPN and RSPs believe that the local people have great potential, which needs to be explored. These institutions can play important role in preparedness of local community to deal with disasters and emergencies in an effective way. Where LSOs exist, UDMCs have been integrated with LSOs.

RSPs/partners are facilitating LSO training on DRR. Following are the details of the modules:

- Module 1: Introduction and Overview of Key Concepts
- Module 2: Roles of UDMCs, Core Principles of CBDRM
- Module 3: CBDRM Process, DRM Cycles
- Module 4: Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness Measures
- Module 5: Emergency Response Skills (Search and Rescue, First Aid, Firefighting)
- Module 6: DRR Integration in LSOs
- Module 7: DRR Advocacy

## ACHIEVEMENTS



## DRR AWARENESS SESSIONS THROUGH COMMUNITY RESOURCE PERSONS (CRPs)

CRPs are individuals from the community who are both active and committed to the development of their area. Under USAID/OFDA Tahafuz CBDRM Project, 898 CRPs were selected from VDMCs to conduct DRR sessions in the targeted districts of Sindh Province (Thatta, Badin, Tharparker and Umerkot). They are playing important role in creating greater awareness about DRR at the grassroots level. CRPs are conducting awareness sessions at households/settlement level.

Following are the details of the modules:

- Module 1: Introduction and Overview of Key Concepts
- Module 2: Pre, During and Post Disasters Measures (Drought, Flood, Fire) at Households /Family level
- Module 3: Pre, During and Post Disasters Measures (Cyclone, Earthquake, Tsunami) at Households /Family level
- Module 4: Search and Rescue, First Aid, Firefighting
- Module 5: Cross-Cutting Themes (Child Immunization, Livestock Immunization, Hygiene and Kitchen Gardening)



## RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK (RSPN)

The Rural Support Programmes Network is the largest development network of Pakistan, with an outreach to over 38 million rural Pakistanis. It consists of 11 member Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) that espouse a common approach to rural development: social mobilization. Social mobilization centers around the belief that poor people have an innate potential to help themselves, and that they can better manage their limited resources if they organize and are provided technical and financial support. The RSPs provide social guidance, and technical and financial assistance to the rural poor. RSPN is the strategic platform for the RSPs: it provides capacity building, research, knowledge management support to them, and assists them in policy advocacy and donor linkages.

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# Strengthening Community Resilience for DRR





## INTRODUCTION

Since 2005 earthquake, Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) has been supporting emergency relief and early recovery efforts to meet the needs of calamity hit communities. Since 2010 floods, RSPN has focused on strengthening community resilience, particularly on capacity building of staff, Village Disaster Management Committees (VDMCs), Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMCs), Local Support Organizations (LSOs) and Community Resource Persons (CRPs). These efforts have been supported by the USAID/OFDA funded project titled Tahafuz: Building Resilience through Community Based Disaster Risk Management in the Sindh Province of Pakistan. RSPN is implementing this project in four districts of Sindh Province (Thatta, Badin, Tharparker and Umerkot) through its partner organizations, namely National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) and Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP).

## RSPN AND RSPs STAFF

RSPN has developed a comprehensive training manual on Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) for the capacity building of RSPN and partner RSPs' staff. This training manual has been tested and implemented at the organizational level. During the initial phase of the Tahafuz Project, Training of Trainers (TOT) was conducted to develop a team of facilitators for transferring CBDRM/Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) knowledge and skills to implementing partners and later at grass roots level. The manual is available in English and Sindhi languages. Following are the details of the modules covered:

- Module 1: Introduction and Overview of Key Concepts
- Module 2: Participatory Disaster Risk Assessments
- Module 3: Participatory Disaster Risk Management Planning
- Module 4: Community Managed Implementation
- Module 5: Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
- Module 6: Emergency Response Skills (Search and Rescue, First Aid, Firefighting)
- Module 7: Leadership, Communication, Conflicts Resolutions
- Module 8: Financial Management
- Module 9: Advocacy and Networking
- Module 10: Cross-Cutting Themes (Immunization, Livestock Management, Hygiene Promotion)

The project based CBDRM Capacity Building Specialist provides technical support to RSPs/partners in CBDRM/DRR training events.

## VILLAGE DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VDMC)

It is a community institution which is established by people at revenue village level. Main functions of VDMC are to conduct participatory risk assessment, development of Disaster Risk Management Plans (DRMPS) and implementation of DRR activities. Moreover, strengthening early warning system, sensitization and awareness raising on DRR are also among the other responsibilities of VDMC. Training officers at RSPs level hold and conduct training events for VDMCs. Each training event is comprised of five days which covers the following modules on DRR.

- Module 1: Introduction and Overview of Key Concepts
- Module 2: Participatory Disaster Risk Assessments
- Module 3: Participatory Disaster Risk Management Planning
- Module 4: Community Managed Implementation
- Module 5: Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
- Module 6: Emergency Response Skills (Search and Rescue, First Aid, Firefighting)
- Module 7: Cross Cutting Themes (Immunization, Livestock Management, Hygiene Promotion)

## UNION DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (UDMC)

The Union Disaster Management Committee is an extended arm of VDMCs, which is established at the union council level. It comprises of two designated members from each VDMC of the respective union council. This body provides leadership for linkages and liaisons in development with district administration and other stakeholders in DRR related matters.

RSPs/Partners are facilitating UDMCs training on Organizational Management and Development and Advocacy and Networking. Following are the details of the modules:

- Module 1: Introduction and Overview of Key Concepts/DRM system
- Module 2: Communication Skills
- Module 3: Leadership
- Module 4: Advocacy and Networking
- Module 5: DRR Advocacy Process
- Module 6: Financial Management and Record Keeping
- Module 7: Conflicts Resolution