SEWIN Project has integrated disability into its strategy with the objective of reducing the risks of the most vulnerable people in flood prone districts of Nepal. The project has included specific activities to sensitize and train the DMCs and community members to treat persons with disabilities as differently-able persons and supported the active participation of persons with disabilities into DRR activities.

“We have created a task force group including one person with disability as an active member of the group. The main objective is to understand vulnerability through a different lens during the crisis,” says Shakil, Secretary DMC, Kamdi VDC.

Dinesh Barma is physically impaired and is an active member of his community’s DMC. He has been involved not only in DMC meeting but also in risk assessment and awareness raising campaigns, community based EWS and disability training as well as in mitigation activities. His involvement has enabled him to gain knowledge on flood preparedness and to share his knowledge with others.

“As soon as the warning message is communicated, DMC members along with the task force will meet and decide on the steps to be taken according to the contingency plan. The message will then be disseminated among all community members with special attention to the most vulnerable groups. Siren, hand mike, flags and sign boards will be used to disseminate the message. The other task force such as search and rescue team, first aid team, will also disperse and make sure that all vulnerable people have reached shelter safely,” adds Dinesh.

Dinesh has also been provided with a tricycle after a check up in the screening and fitting camp carried out by Handicap International. The tricycle has increased Dinesh’s mobility. It has not only supported him in reducing his vulnerability to flood but has also helped in improving his income.

Since he is a retailer, tricycle has increased his mobility which has further provided him with enough opportunity to build rapport with many people to sustain his business. Like Dinesh, many other differently able persons have been empowered. They are involved in every activity and are constantly consulted to make EWS more inclusive.

Training on mainstreaming disability in early warning and DRR facilitated by Handicap International

Developing disability inclusive EWS

Dinesh Barma showing early warning poster