Prior to SEWIN Project’s intervention no organisation, government or private had worked on disaster risk reduction and its management in our community.

It was CSDR who opened our eyes and helped us understand that only after establishing an institution can we amplify the voice of every commoner affected by disaster. They also suggested that only an institution which if made sustainable can properly manage disaster by reducing loss of life and property. Hence, we established a committee named Duduwa Lundri Disaster Management Committee,” states Shakil Ahmad Khan, Secretary of Duduwa Lundri DMC.

Disaster Management Committee or Establishment of DMC – an approach to community based disaster risk reduction

We collected NPR 350,000 (£3,684) for disaster preparedness and mitigation by negotiating and influencing the VDC to support our cause.

DMC in Kamdi VDC was formed on August 2009 right after the inception workshop. Altogether 65 people from flood affected communities and representatives from political parties were involved during the formation of DMC. The DMC consists of 1 chairman, 1 secretary and 13 remaining members.

DMC is involved in awareness raising programmes, organising and participating in training, workshops, seminar, meetings, resource finding and mobilisation, rapport building with stakeholders and also advocacy related work. Conducting activities through DMC, has been very easy as community people view DMC as trust worthy and legitimate, making the implementation of any activity more effective and efficient.

“Being a part of this committee has given me satisfaction because people in our community now believe that even though no relief institute comes to our rescue or provides us with relief we will be able to save ourselves as well as our belongings and by utilising the emergency fund we will keep our community safe,” affirms Shakil.

“For the sustainability of EWS we will mobilise community as well as other local institutions like Forest Users Group Committee along with VDC or collect ‘Musthi daan’ from the community for emergency fund.”