Things have changed today !

Akbal Khan (42), member of Duduwa Lundri Prakop Byabasthapan Samiti, Kamdi VDC recalls the flood of 2006.

“I woke up at 1 AM and found a foot of water inside my house. I immediately woke my wife and my children and in the process of fleeing we screamed and alerted our neighbours too. Later I learned that I was the first person to alert the community. On that fateful night had I not woken me and my family and many people would have died, especially children, elderly and pregnant women. By luck we managed to reach the higher ground. Although we managed to save all human lives, many of us lost our livestock and important documents.

We always thought that floods were a part of planting season and we only talked about flood after the destruction. But this is the first time we are talking about flood and preparation because SEWIN Project has assisted us in understanding the importance of flood early warning” - Akbal.

Things have changed today. The whole community has changed. We now know what to do during the monsoon. We have a DMC who informs the community about flood preparedness, early warning and spreads awareness on how EWS works for flood. Many people have seen street dramas, participated in local song competitions, rallies and other awareness programmes where they have learnt more about flood preparedness. During street drama and exhibition our community has also seen the siren and hand mike. We know that Jan Ali Nau, member of DMC will operate the siren on time. DMC is responsible for contacting the gauge reader and other stakeholders regularly during monsoon to extract timely information and disseminate among the community people.

“No, as soon as we hear the siren or contact gauge reader or other stakeholder and get the information on danger water level we will get prepared. We will collect our belongings, take our livestock to higher ground, help elderly, children and pregnant women and take them to the shelter which is 1 km away from our home. We have also identified alternative shelter or school which is also 1 km away from my house.

Thanks to EWS, it has helped in reducing our vulnerability and has increased our confidence. Now we are ready to take full benefit of the rain. I can now say with confidence that disastrous flood is not a part of planting season.”