

Case-Study

Hajani – Battling against the Odds



Hajani is a 40 year old widow from the village of Jamal Hajano. The loss of her husband has only strengthened her resolve to battle the odds and provide a decent living for her family. To support her family of a son and parents, she toiled away in the fields as a farm labourer, earning PKR 150 per day for her work, which was totally inadequate to cover her monthly expenses.

Financial assistance from relatives made sustenance possible for her. Never in her wildest dreams would she have anticipated the magnitude of the floods that were to turn her world upside down. “The sound of the coming water was enough to make you go mad. It looked like the whole world would drown”, she weeps ruminating on the destructive power of the floods.

Taking whatever she could of her belongings, she along with her family sought refuge with relatives who helped them in their difficult time.

“The months I spent with my relatives were the most difficult time of my life. I had to be dependent on them for everything”, she weeps.

There was little to look forward to on their return home, their house was destroyed and all their belongings either damaged or swept away. “I broke down in tears when I saw the flooded village. There was no hope for us. We had nothing left.”

Hope came in the way of ERF shelter program for the flood victims of village Jamal Hajano. Through the collaborative efforts of OSDI and UNOCHA, one room shelters were built for 182 affected households free of cost under the ERF program.

Additionally, a CFW (Cash for Work) scheme was also introduced under the program where people of the community after being trained in reconstruction skills were compensated for undertaking the community’s reconstruction.

Hajani’s son, who until now was unemployed despite possessing an education, made full use of the program generating an extra PKR 7,500, which made a world of difference for the households’ finances. Hajani used a portion of that extra income to pay off their outstanding debts to the local shop keeper as well.

With a roof on her head, she can finally start the process of rebuilding her life.