

Case-Study

Zeenat Bibi - House of Dreams



Zeenat Bibi of village Jamal Hajano, District Matiari, was struggling even before the raging waters hit her village. After the passing of her father, Zeenat being the eldest offspring tended to her two younger brothers and ailing mother all the while battling the fatal disease of Hepatitis herself.

She made a living by making *charpais* (traditional beds made of wood and rope). Despite the demanding nature of her work, her income didn't cover her mounting expenditures. She had to rely on the support of relatives and people from the village to make ends meet.

She remembers grabbing whatever she could of her belongings in face of the raging water, making their escape to safety. They were given some measure of relief when they took refuge with cooperative relatives in an adjoining village.

But sheer terror of the floods had struck a fatal blow to her mother's already failing health. Upon returning, after witnessing their destroyed home her mother died of grief exacting a huge toll on this household.

The inconsolable loss of her mother's death and no means of livelihood, made any form of reconstruction for her impossible. "I cried all day. I didn't feel like working, I didn't feel like doing anything. I didn't know how I would provide for my two brothers", she recounts her ordeal.

Zeenat Bibi's house was amongst one of the 182 households that were selected to be rehabilitated under the joint OSDI-OCHA ERF One Room Shelter program. The program was designed to provide the flood victims of village Jamal Hajano with shelters so they could restart their lives. Zeenat Bibi's rehabilitation was prioritized under the program, which was devised to give preferential treatment to female headed households such as hers.

She still can't believe she has her own home within a year of the floods. "We couldn't even set a brick for a new house after the floods, we had no money. This shelter is my palace!", she says proudly.