

A School DRR Actor: Eliza Apa

NGO Forum for Public Health

Eliza Sultana (36) is an assistant teacher of Bolashpur Govt Primary School for last 7 years. She is a natural teacher who always enjoys her classes with children.

Bolashpur Govt. Primary School is situated at 19 no ward, Mymensingh Municipality which is one of the targeted school of DIPECHO VIII project. Different types of DRR related activities were organized in this school. Ms Eliza was first acquainted with this project as well as with DRR issues from the ToT on SBDP model where she had participated. A change came by her after knowing the risk of the school and the vulnerabilities of them. She realized the importance of disaster preparedness of the school as a huge number of students spent a long hours of their day at school. So after receiving the training, she continuously participated at different school activities related to DRR.

During school sessions, she voluntarily participated and started to conduct the class room sessions on DRR by her own. Her natural facilitation quality made it more accessible and understandable to the students. Following her actions, other teachers also started to conduct the session and became aware with the DRR issues. But the challenge was to get free time from the tight school schedule for DRR session. They jointly motivated the school authority to incorporate the DRR sessions in their regular academic calendar. After the project period, the awareness activities will be continued in this school as it's already included in their calendar. If project could support by more children/ school friendly ICE materials then they could do their awareness activities more successfully. Ms Eliza Said.' Disaster will create a catastrophic loss to the school. Proper preparedness could reduce these vulnerabilities. As a teacher I feel it's my duty to make my students well aware about the disaster preparedness especially for earthquake and fire hazard. I also enjoy my duty. '