

## I will keep the *Saree* and will give the other relief items to my daughter in laws

Mangla Devi Mahara is a widow in Majhaura Bishanpur VDC of Mahottari district who looks older than her actual 55 yrs of age. Her husband, Ganesh Mahara died five years ago resulting from severe back pain from a life time of working the fields. She lives only with her 2 daughter in-laws and 4 grand children.



During the floods on evening of 26<sup>th</sup> August 2007, the family got separated. Mangladevi ran to Rajdev's house but her daughter in-laws with their children ran to Patthal Khatwe, a neighbor, whose house was relatively safe from the flood water. Mangladevi explains why they separated "I often fight with my daughter in-laws, and that day was no exception. That afternoon we had a big fight about household matters. During the floods we were still angry with each other so we went to different houses."

Mangladevi has a thatched house which is very old which meant that her house could not withstand the effects of the flood water, destroying it completely, leaving her and her family homeless. Her house was about half a kilometer away from a river (Dudhmati). She recalled the evening. "I saw huge amounts of flooded water in my house which I had never before seen in my life". She added, "I thought, I'm gone!" As both her sons are in Panjab (India) for the work, she only worried about herself, so she just ran without any care for her grand children and daughter in laws because of the afternoon fight with them. After the flood water had subsided, she moved in with her daughter in laws who are still living with their neighbors.

When Mangla Devi heard that CARE Nepal was distributing non food items to the flood affected people in her village, she came to CARE's Local Resource person, Deependra Rajak and requested his help in getting relief supplies. When CARE staff was interviewing Mangla Devi, while she waited to get the relief materials, she said that her daughter in-laws were busy in taking care of their children and doing other household activities, she came to receive the relief items on their behalf. She added "I will keep the *Saree* and the other relief items, I will give to my daughter in-laws.

When CARE staff asked whether she was still angry with her daughter in laws, she said, "No I'm not because they provide food for me everyday as I am old and can't work for long and my sons are not around at the moment so I have to depend on them to survive!"

CARE Nepal supplied non food items while the RED Cross distributed basic food items. While relief items were being given to Mangladevi, she looked very happy and she said, "I do not know who gave what (CARE/RED Cross), but whoever gave these relief materials to me and my family, they will be blessed!" The relief supplies given only fulfill her and her family's immediate basic needs and she will require assistance to rebuild her life, but she said, "Something is better than nothing".



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