

CASE STUDY CHILD FRIENDLY SPACES

"I CAN LISTEN TO YOU PEOPLE NOW"



*Rehana
holding her
new hearing
aid before
getting it fitted.*



Rehana Bibi, is a seven year old girl who lives with her parents in Gara Pather Village of Union Council Jattater in District Tank. Her family is loving and supportive, but struggling economically as her father is a daily wage labourer and the sole bread-winner for his eight member family.

It was not until Rehana was four years old that a doctor diagnosed her with a hearing problem. Her father was advised to purchase a hearing aid for her otherwise the hearing problem would continue to worsen. Unfortunately Rehana's father could not bear the cost of the hearing device, so her hearing continued to deteriorate and now, three years later, she is almost completely deaf.

According to her father, Rehana was a very active girl, but not now she is getting depressed due to her hearing problem. She has stopped playing with her brothers, sisters and friends since they sometimes tease and make fun of her. This pains her father but sadly he is unable to help her or fix the problem.

In cooperation with UN-OCHA, FIDA undertook initiatives for a Child Protection Project in District Tank and established a Child Friendly Space (CFS) in Rehana's village. When her father was informed about the CFS, he registered Rehana with the center as well, but did not mention her hearing problem. During different educational and recreational activities the CFS supervisor noticed that Rehana was confused and not actively participating in the activities. The supervisor started focusing on her more and called her father to the CFS to discuss her behavior. Her father then shared Rehana's hearing problem with the supervisor.

On the recommendation of the CFS supervisor and as a part of this same project, Rehana was soon fitted with a hearing device. After getting the hearing device, everyone around her noticed a big change--she was very happy and very actively participating in CFS activities. Her father felt that she was returning to her normal self after experiencing a very difficult period. He was very grateful to the project staff, who helped bring a smile back to Rehana's face.

When asked how she feels after receiving the hearing aid, Rehana replied innocently, "I can listen to you people now. I'm happy."