

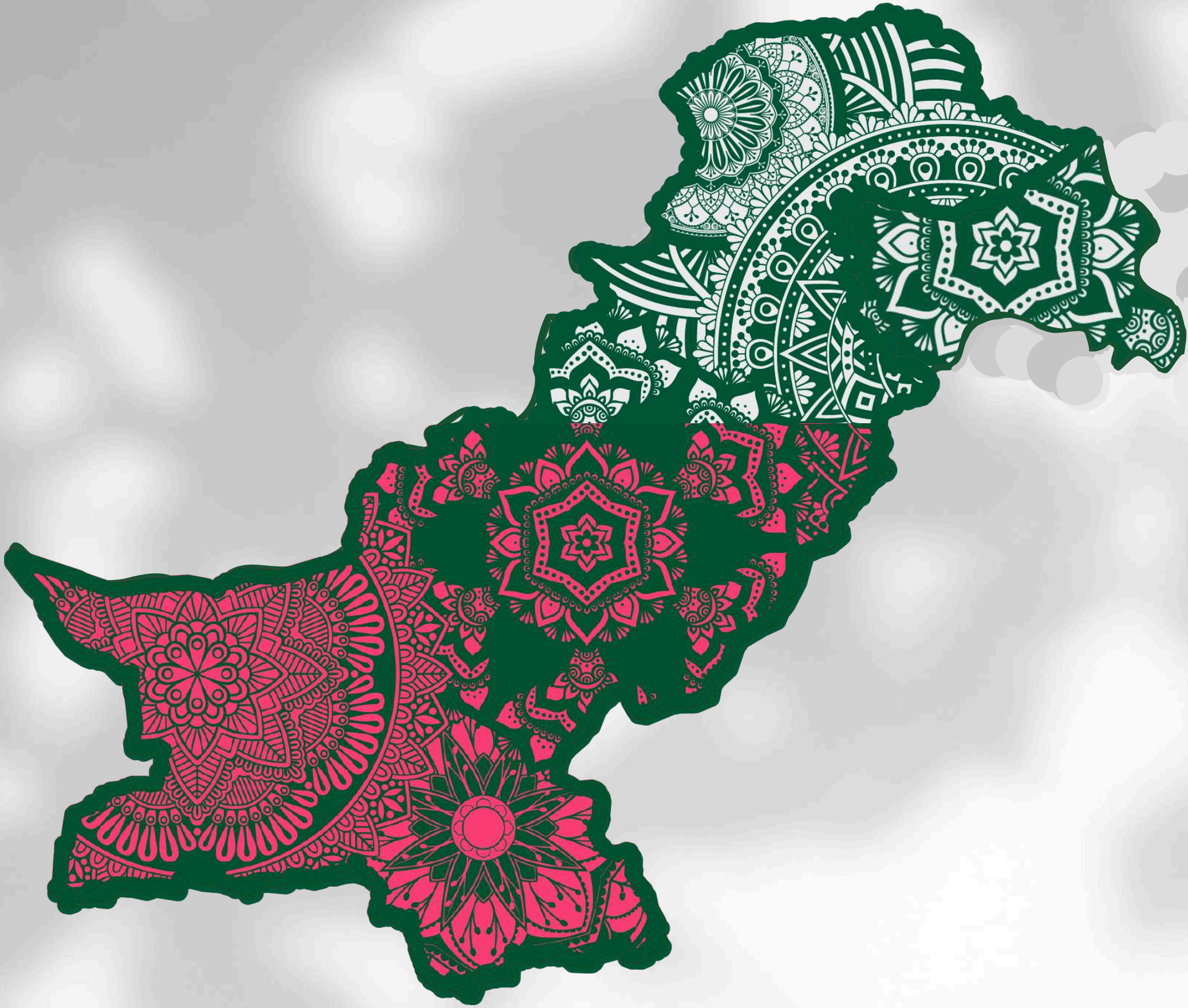


MOPDSI

MINISTRY OF PLANNING
DEVELOPMENT AND
SPECIAL INITIATIVES
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN



IFRAP
Integrated
Flood Resilience &
Adaptation Project



THE SILENT STRENGTH

WOMEN'S RESILIENCE IN BALOCHISTAN'S FLOOD CRISIS IFRAP'S PERSPECTIVE



تو شایں ہے پرواز سے کام تیرا



2015-2030

STORIES OF *Resilience*

A Gender-Inclusive Journey of IFRAP Housing Reconstruction Unit in Flood-Affected Areas of Balochistan–



When the devastating floods swept through Balochistan, they left behind more than just destroyed homes and displaced families. They also exposed deep-rooted inequalities, particularly for women who often find themselves marginalized during recovery processes. But in the heart of this crisis, the Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives IFRAP Housing Reconstruction Unit (HRU) embarked on a mission to not just rebuild homes but to reshape communities with gender inclusion at the core of their efforts. This initiative was about more than just reconstructing houses; it was about rebuilding **confidence, dignity, and equality**. Grounded in the **5Es framework** of the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives (MoPD&SI), and aligned with **Uraan Pakistan's** vision of inclusive development, the project placed women at the center of recovery efforts.

Empowering Women in the Housing Reconstruction Process

In districts like **Sibi, Kachhi, Dera Murad Jamali**, and Lasbela, the reconstruction efforts took on a transformative dimension. Women, who are frequently sidelined in such endeavors, were given the opportunity to participate in critical processes like biometric verification to access reconstruction aid. For many, this was more than a mere procedural step—it was an empowering experience, offering them representation in the rebuilding of their homes and communities.



For **Fatimah**, a widow from **Kachhi**, this initiative was life-changing. **“I never thought I’d have the strength to rebuild after losing everything,”** she shared. **“But being part of this process gave me hope and courage.”**

Similarly, **Hayat Bibi**, a mother of four from **Lasbela**, described **her first trip to a bank as “a moment of pride.”** For her, it wasn’t just about accessing aid—it was about stepping into a new world of possibilities.



Challenges of Inclusion

The journey was not without its hurdles. Balochistan's tribal and rural regions present unique challenges for women. Many live in remote areas with limited or **no access to transportation**, making the journey to verification centers an arduous task. **Cultural norms** often restrict women's mobility, while public institutions frequently **lack private, women-friendly spaces**.



Gul Bibi, another widow from Sibi, recounted the difficulties she faced: **“Traveling to the center was exhausting. I walked for hours with my children, only to face delays because my fingerprints didn’t match. But I kept going because I wanted a better future for my family.”**

There were moments of frustration: women traveling long distances with their families only to face delays due to technical glitches, such as mismatched fingerprints. Others, burdened by health issues, braved the journey because they had no alternative. Despite these obstacles, their resilience shone through, driven by the hope of rebuilding their lives and reclaiming their futures.

A Gender-Inclusive Approach

Recognizing these barriers, MoPD&SI IFRAP HRU adopted a gender-sensitive approach to ensure women's voices and needs were prioritized. The initiative's key measures included:

- **Mobile Verification Units:** These units traveled to rural villages, bringing essential services closer to women who could not travel far.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Private spaces, separate seating arrangements, and female staff were provided to create a comfortable and respectful environment for women.
- **Inclusive Solutions:** Alternatives such as NADRA verification were offered to those facing technical issues with biometric verification.
- **Community Engagement:** Local women and their families were actively involved to build trust and encourage participation.



For **Amna**, a young woman from **Dera Murad Jamali**, these measures made all the difference. **“The female staff made me feel safe and respected. It was the first time I felt like my voice mattered,”** she said.



Zahida, an elderly woman from **Lasbela**, expressed her gratitude for the mobile verification units. **“Without them, I wouldn't have been able to complete the process. They brought hope to our doorstep.”**

Rebuilding with Equity

The project also directly contributes to **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5: Gender Equality and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**. By empowering women and ensuring their active participation, the initiative promotes gender equality, while the focus on inclusive and resilient reconstruction aligns with the vision of sustainable urban and rural development.

Through this framework, Uraan Pakistan and IFRAP HRU ensured that women were not merely **passive recipients** of aid but **active participants** in rebuilding their homes and communities. The inclusive approach has profound implications for the future, as women now stand shoulder-to-shoulder with men, shaping a stronger, more resilient society.

A Journey Far from Over

While the road ahead remains long, the steps taken by MoPD&SI IFRAP HRU and Uraan Pakistan have set a powerful precedent. By placing women at the center of development, the project is not just rebuilding homes but creating a more inclusive society where every voice matters.

Together, we're creating stronger, more inclusive communities, where every voice matters.

“In 2022, millions of women in Pakistan were affected by the monsoon floods, including in Balochistan. The floods caused many health issues, including waterborne diseases, and increased the risk of gender-based violence.”

