



MOPDSI
MINISTRY OF PLANNING
DEVELOPMENT AND
SPECIAL INITIATIVES
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN



IFRAP
Integrated
Flood Resilience &
Adaptation Project



**MOPD&SI INTEGRATED FLOOD
RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION
PROJECT (IFRAP)**

HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION UNIT BALOCHISTAN

PIP- NRSP Balochistan



National Rural Support Programme

تو شایں سے پرواز سے کام لیا

Breaking Barriers, Rebuilding Futures: Women Leading Disaster Recovery in Balochistan

IFRAP Special Report



Abdul Razaq, a visually impaired resident with his family.



Handwritten VRC Membership form of Noor Mohammad Goth-1 Lasbela. The form is titled 'نور محمد گوٹہ-۱ لاسبلا' and 'VRC'.

| Sl. No. | Name | Age | Gender | Signature | Remarks |
|---------|-------------|-----|--------|-----------|---------|
| 1 | Abdul Razaq | 39 | Male | | |
| 2 | Abdul Razaq | 39 | Male | | |
| 3 | Abdul Razaq | 39 | Male | | |
| 4 | Abdul Razaq | 39 | Male | | |
| 5 | Abdul Razaq | 39 | Male | | |
| 6 | Abdul Razaq | 39 | Male | | |
| 7 | Abdul Razaq | 39 | Male | | |
| 8 | Abdul Razaq | 39 | Male | | |
| 9 | Abdul Razaq | 39 | Male | | |

VRC Membership form of Noor Mohammad Goth-1 Lasbela

Rebuilding with Resilience: Women Leading the Way in Noor Mohammad Goth-1

In the heart of Lasbela, Balochistan, where the 2022 floods left countless families without shelter, hope emerged through the Village Reconstruction Committee (VRC) of Noor Mohammad Goth-1. This community-led initiative, supported by the Government of Pakistan and the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives (MoPD&SI), has become a beacon of empowerment, particularly for women who are shaping the future of their village.

Women at the Forefront of Reconstruction

Historically, decision-making in disaster recovery efforts has often excluded women. However, the **Noor Mohammad Goth-1 VRC set a new precedent by ensuring 22% female representation, with four out of 17 beneficiaries being women. Two widows were also included in leadership roles, breaking barriers and demonstrating that women are not just beneficiaries but active agents of change.**



Noor Bano, a widow who had lived with her brother for ten years, now stands as a testament to this transformation. Through the VRC's transparent selection process, she prioritized resilient housing under the IFRAP project. **For the first time in a decade, she will have a home of her own, a powerful symbol of dignity and security.**

Challenging Gender Norms through Participation

The inclusion of women in the VRC was not merely symbolic; it was practical and transformative. Women were trained in construction oversight, procurement processes, and financial management. They played a crucial role in approving housing designs, ensuring that homes met the unique needs of their families. By voicing their concerns and contributing to decision-making, women of Noor Mohammad Goth-1 shattered traditional gender roles and emerged as community leaders.

Prioritizing the Most Vulnerable

Recognizing the challenges faced by widows and people with disabilities, the VRC implemented inclusive policies. Widows received priority in housing allocation, along with legal support to protect their land rights.

Abdul Razaq, a visually impaired resident, was another beneficiary of the committee's commitment to inclusivity. Along with his son, who also has visual impairments, he lost his home in the floods. Thanks to the VRC's advocacy, Abdul Razaq's new home features disability-friendly modifications such as ramps, wide doorways, and accessible washrooms—ensuring that no one is left behind in the rebuilding process.

A Model for Sustainable and Transparent Recovery

Beyond gender and social inclusion, the VRC focused on sustainable and disaster-resilient reconstruction. Flood-resistant housing, eco-friendly materials, and bulk procurement strategies ensured cost-effectiveness and environmental sustainability. A robust Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) further upheld transparency, resolving 90% of complaints within seven days.

Multiple reporting channels:

- Complaint boxes placed in public areas.
- Weekly community meetings for in-person reporting.
- Mobile complaint helplines for quick resolutions.
- Women-led grievance desks, ensuring accessibility for female complainants.
- Support for Persons with functional limitations,



Complaint boxes and information charts placed in public areas.

Impact and Lessons Learned

The **Noor Mohammad Goth-1 VRC model** successfully demonstrated how inclusive, sustainable, and community-led reconstruction efforts can lead to long-term resilience.

- 17 homes will be rebuilt using flood-resistant and eco-friendly designs.
- Women actively participated in decision-making.
- Widows will be among the first to receive homes and are empowered through financial support.
- One individual with visual impairments received disability-friendly housing.
- Sustainable construction reduced environmental impact and future flood risks.
- Bulk procurement saved 30% of costs, allowing more homes to be built.
- GRM resolved 90% of complaints within 7 days, maintaining community trust.

Conclusion: Women as the Pillars of Resilient Communities

The Noor Mohammad Goth-1 VRC exemplifies how empowering women leads to stronger, more resilient communities. By placing women in leadership roles, prioritizing the most vulnerable, and implementing sustainable recovery strategies, this initiative serves as a model for post-disaster rehabilitation across Pakistan.

Through the unwavering support of the Government of Pakistan and MoPD&SI, Noor Mohammad Goth-1 has not just rebuilt homes—it has rebuilt lives, proving that when women lead, communities thrive.



Complaint boxes and information charts placed in public areas.

