



SKILLS WERE HIDDEN IN HOMES, NOW THEY EARN

***In Chib Kalmati, a Women Resource Centre is
Turning Embroidery into Enterprise and Tripled the
Income of a Single Mother of two.***

Paving the Path Towards Sustainable Development

Gwadar Lasbela Livelihoods Support Project
Phase II

OVERVIEW

AT A GLANCE

Location: Union Council Chaib Kalmati, District Gwadar

Project: Gwadar-Lasbela Livelihood Support Project (Phase-II)

Scheme: Women Resource Centre (WRC)

Year of Implementation: 2025-26

THE PROBLEM: SKILLS WITH NO PATHWAY



Shazia Rahim Bakhsh

Balochistan, Pakistan's largest province, remains its poorest. Nearly 70% of the population is multi-dimensionally poor, and women bear a disproportionate share. Female labour force participation stands at just 13.4% — a reflection of restricted mobility, limited access to education and skills, and few safe spaces to work.

UC Chib Kalmati mirrors this reality. Per BISP 2019 data, it has 3,064 households and 14,852 people — of whom 7,506 (50.5%) are women. Among households, 461 are ultra-poor, 579 are poor, and 21% are lower-middle poor. Many women possess traditional embroidery and tailoring skills, but lack the training, workspaces, business knowledge, financial literacy and market access to turn those skills into livelihoods.

For Ms. Shazia Rahim Bakhsh, a divorced mother of two girls from Mundi village, that meant surviving on irregular, low-paid home-based work with little hope of stability.

75 women
trained in 3 EDT cohorts

3x
income for lead beneficiary

3 groups
embroidery & tailoring
enterprises



The Initiative: A Safe Space, a Real Pathway

GLLSP-II established a Women Resource Centre with a well-ventilated meeting and training hall, storage, bathroom and reliable water, a solar-powered electrification system, and a secure, culturally acceptable location for women from surrounding villages.

Enterprise Development Trainings (EDT)

Three EDT sessions trained 75 women (25 per cohort). Shazia was among them. The curriculum covered advanced embroidery and design techniques, product finishing and quality control, business planning and entrepreneurship, marketing and order management, and financial literacy and savings.

Enterprise Groups

Individual Micro Investment Plans were built around each woman's skills and the local market. Three Enterprise Groups in hand embroidery and tailoring were formed, with 75 members. A dedicated WRC Manager nominated by the LSO supports the groups through market linkages, microfinance connections, exhibitions and promotion.

"I had skills, but no pathway. This project showed me how to turn my work into an honorable life."

— Shazia Rahim Bakhsh, WRC Chib Kalmati

As the sole provider for her two daughters, Shazia earned PKR 10,000–12,000 a month from home-based embroidery — skill without system. GLLSP-II changed that. A Community Organization was formed and linked to the VO and LSO; Shazia was selected for EDT, gaining technical skills, business direction and confidence. Using the WRC as her platform, she expanded her customer base, sourced raw material independently, improved quality, and now sells through local markets and women-led WhatsApp groups. Her monthly income has tripled — from PKR 10,000 to approximately PKR 30,000 — and she has even diversified into a small neighbourhood shop selling snacks and frozen treats. Her elder daughter is now enrolled in GDA Higher Secondary School, one of the district’s leading private schools.



Conclusion

The WRC Chib Kalmati shows how targeted infrastructure, skills development and community ownership can unlock women’s social and economic potential. By turning individual skills into collective enterprise and dignified livelihoods, it is reshaping not only incomes but social norms — one woman, one family, one community at a time.

Lessons Learned & Outcomes

- ▶ **Safe spaces enable mobility** — in conservative rural contexts, a culturally acceptable, women-only venue is the precondition for participation.
- ▶ **Income tripling is achievable** — Shazia’s monthly earnings moved from PKR 10,000 to PKR 30,000 through training + group platform + market linkages.
- ▶ **Digital channels expand reach** — women-led WhatsApp groups have become an effective sales channel beyond local markets.
- ▶ **Education follows income** — with higher earnings, Shazia enrolled her daughter in GDA Higher Secondary School, breaking an intergenerational cycle.

Sustainable Development Goals Advanced

SDG 1 No Poverty	SDG 4 Quality Education	SDG 5 Gender Equality	SDG 8 Decent Work	SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities
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