



{if} iqrafund

2025 END-OF-YEAR IMPACT REPORT





**Iqra Fund's Theory of Change is grounded in a simple idea:**

# **A Girl's Education. A Community's Future. A Global Effect.**

**{if} girls** have an education, they improve life for themselves and their families.

**{if} communities** educate all girls, they lift themselves out of poverty.

**{if} a nation** educates all children—especially girls—it flourishes.

**{if} global communities** join together, we improve planetary health.

**{if} not now**, then {when}?

**This vision is operationalized through three core pillars:**

- Access to education for girls in remote and underserved regions
- Quality education through trained teachers, strong leadership, and relevant curriculum
- Sustainability through community engagement and system-level partnerships



# Thirteen Years of Growth and Impact



## Teachers & Schools

194

teachers supported this year

101

teachers on {if} staff

22

K-8 village schools established

## Employed Graduates

3

graduates employed as community health professionals

34

graduates hired as their village's first female teachers

## Student Enrollment

3,990

first-generation K-12 students currently enrolled

85

first-generation college and university women on scholarship

## Mothers & Daughters

1,362

Mothers engaged and trained as community leaders, supporting their daughters to become their region's first generation of educated girls and women



**PROGRAM OVERVIEW:**

## Strengthening Learning from Early Childhood to University

This year, Iqra Fund strengthened a full continuum of education programming that supports students from their earliest years through university-level scholars, while engaging teachers, parents, and community leaders at every step. Our largest area of growth came in Early Childhood Development (ECD), where we expanded to six new villages, bringing the total to 20 ECD centers and enrolling 311 new learners. Built in partnership with families, especially mothers who never attended school themselves, our ECD model continues to show measurable gains in language, motor, and social-emotional development. All ECD teachers completed immersive phonics training, and ongoing coaching and quarterly assessments are helping children build strong foundations for lifelong learning.

Equally critical is our investment in the people at the heart of our schools. This year, we supported 198 teachers across 22 Iqra Fund schools through classroom observations, mentoring, and new in-house trainings. Senior educators are now paired with new hires, and Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) training in science, math, and

English has strengthened instructional quality across high school classrooms. Teachers are showing increased confidence and receptiveness to feedback, helping improve learning outcomes across all levels.

Health and digital literacy programs reached thousands of students and families. Seventeen hygiene sessions were held across all regions, accompanied by the distribution of nearly 2,000 menstruation kits. Thirty-five young women completed the Computer Literacy Program, and planning is underway to pilot AI-supported lesson planning with teachers this winter.

Across all villages, every Iqra-supported school led a week-long climate change awareness campaign, culminating in student-led environmental competitions that brought together teachers, families, and local leaders.

Together, these achievements reflect Iqra Fund's commitment to strengthening learning environments, supporting students from their first days in school to university and beyond, and equipping communities with the tools to build a brighter, more resilient future for their children.





**COMMUNITY HEALTH SPOTLIGHT:**  
**Lady Health Worker Training**

This summer, Iqra Fund brought together twelve Lady Health Workers and Community Midwives from some of the most remote parts of Basha Valley for a three-day, hands-on training designed to strengthen preventive care, screening, and emergency response skills. Led by volunteer nurse practitioners Eliza Cooley and Maya von Wodtke, the

sessions created a rare opportunity for local health workers to practice critical techniques and learn alongside one another. Two of our scholarship students, Belqis and Nureen, stepped in as facilitators, supporting exercises and modeling the leadership and service ethic growing across our scholarship community. The training also helped

launch the next steps for Iqra Fund scholar, Sakina, a practicing Lady Health Worker, now pursuing her health diploma and planning to open a community health house in her village. Participants left eager for continued learning, and Iqra Fund is working with local partners to build these trainings into a sustained, locally led health initiative.



**Belqis Bano**, one of Iqra Fund's first enrolled students in 2011 has always dreamed of becoming a doctor and is now in her first year studying Emergency and Clinical Medicine in Islamabad.



**SCHOLARSHIP  
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:  
Noreen Fatima**

As one of the first young women from her community to pursue higher education with Iqra Fund's support, Noreen Fatima stands out as both a top student and a dedicated mentor to others. Now studying Zoology, she recently received a school award of achievement for her outstanding biology exhibit, reflecting her academic excellence and deep curiosity for science. Beyond the classroom, Noreen gives back with remarkable commitment. She ran a winter learning program that helped more than 50 younger students strengthen their reading, writing, and math skills, and later led an environmental awareness session encouraging children to care for their land and water. Noreen's leadership and generosity are helping open doors for the next generation of girls in her valley, and her achievements continue to inspire her entire community.



**“Broaden your vision, increase your potential and confidence to pursue your passion, unlock new opportunities and empower yourself to take control of your life.”**



“By maintaining strong communication with teachers, engaging the government and NGOs for long-term support, we can build a more inclusive and sustainable public education system.”

— VEC Training Participant, Basha Valley



## BALTI-LED:

# Local Leadership for Climate-Ready Schools

From July to September 2025, Baltistan endured one of its most destructive flood seasons in recent memory. Flash floods and GLOFs (glacial lake outburst floods) washed out more than 290 km of roads, 92 bridges, over 1,200 homes, and nearly 2,000 acres of farmland. The season resulted in 41 fatalities and 52 injuries across the province. With field access cut off for much of the summer, Iqra Fund quickly shifted to strengthen the BALTI-LED leadership cohort’s core skills in data collection, multi-month monitoring, and evidence-driven School Development Plans (SDPs).

Using our newly piloted EMIS-enabled monitoring system, VECs (Village Education Committees), MSGs (Mothers Support Groups), DEC members (District Education Committee), and the {if} Regional Team worked together to track real-time impacts across 25 schools. They documented damaged routes, unsafe water systems, teacher shortages, student displacement, and local

relief efforts as they unfolded. This information helped local leaders monitor SDPs every month, coordinate government resource requests, and protect learning continuity even as families rebuilt homes and livelihoods. Early findings showed the scale of disruption, including 64 girls affected at Govt. Boys Middle School Doghoro Basha where water pipelines, farmland, and bridge access were destroyed.

This season reinforced a core truth: in climate-exposed regions, public schools function as lifebases that provide safety, clean water, stability, and trusted coordination. Iqra Fund’s role is not to shift into relief work. Instead, our role is to equip local leaders with the monitoring tools, planning systems, and data fluency they need to navigate hazards and advocate effectively for government support.

BALTI-LED’s rapid work during the floods demonstrated how tools created in a crisis can

evolve into durable systems for safer, climate-ready schools. This reflective and iterative practice is now part of our institutional learning and forms the foundation of a blueprint we are preparing to share globally. Resilient education systems begin with empowered local leadership, real-time data, and public schools that can act as lifelines for communities facing increasing climate uncertainty.

As we move toward our 2027 to 2030 strategy, disaster resilience will become a crosscutting priority that ensures every child can stay safe, stay in school, and continue learning regardless of changing climate conditions. This year highlighted an essential lesson: when frontline communities are equipped with strong tools, their resilience to climate shocks and their ability to protect children’s learning increases significantly. Donor support is helping transform these leaders into the backbone of education and risk governance across northern Pakistan.





**TEAM SPOTLIGHT:**  
**Sajid Ali**

Born and raised in a remote village of Skardu District, Sajid Ali brings deep local roots and world-class engineering experience to Iqra Fund. After completing his early schooling in Baltistan, he pursued Pre-Engineering in Karachi and earned his engineering degree from NED University. He went on to manage major construction projects—including roads and hospital infrastructure—with EMAAR, training alongside international engineering teams. Inspired by Iqra Fund’s mission to expand girls’ education across the mountains, Sajid returned home to lead our engineering division. Today, he ensures that every capital project meets the highest standards of safety, resilience, and sustainability, serving as both a dedicated son of Baltistan and a steward of safe learning environments in some of Pakistan’s most challenging terrain.

When asked what it takes to build schools in the mountains of Baltistan, he reflects:

*“In Basha Valley alone our learning spaces support more than 3,000 students, including hundreds of first-generation girls entering high school. Building safe schools here in a timely fashion requires exceptional commitment and planning. Baltistan’s remote geography means every bag of cement and steel must travel long distances from Skardu on rough tracks and across rivers, raising costs and demanding perfect timing. Freezing temperatures and high altitude shorten the construction season, making every day of work count.*

*Because the entire region lies in Seismic Zone 3, and construction happens near 3,000 meters, every design must be earthquake-resilient, flood-smart, and planned with great care. Skilled labor is limited, so our fathers and the Iqra Fund team train local workers step by step and supervise quality in the field every single day.*

*Despite these challenges—difficult roads, seismic risk, harsh weather, and remote locations—our clustered approach and in house engineering team has enabled us to complete high-quality science labs and schools from the top to the bottom of the valley, keeping pace with the growing number of girls enrolled here in one of Baltistan’s most remote valleys.”*





## Capital Improvements Projects

Iqra Fund is moving forward with an ambitious three-year Capital Improvement Program designed to serve the largest generation of girls ever enrolled in our remote mountain schools. Through a cluster-based approach that reduces exposure to floods, avalanches, and rockfall, we are building complete education systems — not just buildings — guided by School Development Plans, strong local leadership, and close government coordination. This strategy ensures that every dollar stretches further while prioritizing safety, access, and long-term opportunity.

### This Year's Progress

Across our valleys, we focused on high-impact investments that directly improve safety, learning conditions, and girls' access to quality education:

- Six new classrooms were constructed and furnished, easing overcrowding and improving learning environments.
- Two fully equipped science labs were completed — the first in Basha Valley — giving girls access to hands-on STEM learning for the first time.
- Four new washrooms were built, improving dignity and reducing absenteeism among adolescent girls.
- Twenty-four water projects were completed across Basho, Basha, and Hushe, delivering safe, reliable water access to thousands of families.
- Four large 11,000-liter water tanks were installed at schools facing chronic shortages, strengthening hygiene and daily operations.





## LARGE CAPITAL PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

## Upper Basha Girls Higher Secondary School

In Upper Basha, the largest generation of girls in history is now reaching high school. To meet this moment, Iqra Fund has completed the design of a new 21,000-square-foot Girls Higher Secondary School that will serve more than 400 students with modern classrooms and four science labs — all built to international seismic and safety standards.

- Architectural design, risk management assessments, and government approvals are complete.
- The site is secured in Sibri Village at nearly 3,000m, adjacent to existing public schools and positioned safely away from hazard zones.
- When finished, the school will act as both a learning center and emergency-resilient public infrastructure for the entire valley.

With design, approvals, and engineering in place, the campus is fully shovel-ready. We are now entering the stage where donor partnership will turn this vision into reality.

**Critical Infrastructure Needs for 2026**

Looking ahead, several high-priority capital needs have been identified to ensure safe, accessible learning environments as enrollment continues to grow:

- Classrooms: Each new classroom costs approximately \$12,000, and three are urgently needed in 2026 to address overcrowding.
- Science Lab: A fully equipped lab costs \$18,000, and one lab is required next year to expand STEM access in underserved areas.
- Washrooms: Essential for dignity and attendance, each unit costs \$1,000, with three needed in 2026.
- Upper Basha Girls Higher Secondary School: Total project cost is \$1.6M, including a 20 percent contingency — representing a transformational, generational investment for the region.





**PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:**  
**Fathers Supporting  
Girls' Education**

Our progress in Baltistan is rooted in a simple belief: lasting change begins with local leadership and grows at the speed of trust. By honoring the cultural protocols, knowledge, and values that guide daily life in these mountain valleys, we ensure that every school improvement reflects true community ownership. This locally driven model—led by fathers, Village Education Committees, and Mother Support Groups—continues to strengthen girls' education across all Iqra Fund partner villages. Their leadership is featured in our newest short film, {if} Fathers Build, which captures fathers building classrooms, safeguarding school access, and championing their daughters' right to learn.

As we expand schools and improve learning environments, it is the commitment of fathers like Sikandar and Nabi that ensures these investments reach every girl. When donors invest in girls' education, they are joining hands with these local champions whose leadership makes long-term change possible.

**Watch the Film: {if} Fathers Build**



**Sikandar Basu**  
Father of Three; VEC Chairman  
Gulshanabad

“If a boy is educated, one person is educated. If a girl is educated, the whole society is uplifted. By supporting families and encouraging more fathers to engage, we can bring even more children to school.”



**Ghulam Nabi**  
Father and Headmaster  
Tissar

“As a father of 6 girls, I believe that educating girls transforms families and future generations. We’ve built a science lab in Tissar so students can truly grasp the subjects they study. Our daughters and sisters deserve this.”



# Financials

Iqra Fund remains committed to the highest standards of reporting, accountability, governance, and transparency. With an annual programming budget of approximately \$800,000—excluding the capital improvements outlined in this report—we work intentionally to keep overhead low while delivering high-quality services in some of the most remote and underserved mountain communities in Pakistan.

Today, more than 4,000 first-generation students are enrolled across our partner schools. Yet thousands more in surrounding villages still lack access to education. With donor partnership and strategic in-country collaboration, we are committed to expanding our reach so every child in Baltistan has the opportunity to learn, thrive, and lead.

For more information on how your contributions support students and communities, please visit the **Financials** page on our website. There you will find our most recent Form 990 and our audited financial statements for 2023 and 2024.





# Thank You

Your belief in our mission fuels every milestone shared in this report. Whether it's a classroom in Basha, a washroom in Tissar, or a university acceptance for a girl from Hushe, your support makes it possible.

*Thank you for believing not just in girls' education, but in their power to lead us forward.*

With deepest gratitude,  
**The Iqra Fund Team**

