ANTICIPATORY ACTION | UPPER & LOWER CHITRAL

Gender-Sensitive Crisis Modifier

Mechanism Design and Pilot Plan

Bridging early warning and early action for women, girls and marginalized groups in high-risk mountain valleys



November 2025

Gender-Sensitive Crisis Modifier: Mechanism Design and Pilot Plan

Prepared for	Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) and Aga Khan Agency for Habitat Pakistan (AKAHP), under the ECHO-funded project Improving Responses & Increasing Resilience to Disasters in Vulnerable Areas of Chitral
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Summary

A crisis modifier is a pre-authorised, flexible funding line that lets a programme release money quickly once a defined trigger is met. This paper designs a gender-sensitive crisis modifier and a pilot plan for six high-risk union councils of Upper and Lower Chitral, so that early warning leads to early action that reaches women, girls, persons with disabilities and the Kalash community.

It proposes a Crisis Modifier Committee with at least 40% women, able to authorise funds within 24 hours of a verified trigger. Activation combines "hard" physical triggers, such as flood forecasts and glacial lake sensor alerts, with "soft" social triggers, such as spikes in protection reports, projected displacement and sharp rises in food or fodder prices.

The pilot runs in four phases: prevention (gender-disaggregated risk mapping and Kalash indigenous knowledge), preparedness (survival-skills training for women and local-language warnings), response (dignified shelters, dedicated transport for pregnant women and persons with disabilities, and a protection task force) and recovery (cash transferred directly to women's mobile wallets). Quarterly gender audits and complaint mechanisms provide accountability.

The full report is available on request. Please contact WADDAN – Partner in Development by email.