
PEOPLE
OF
RESILEINCE

These Human Stories are an ode to the resilience of the People of Pakistan.

INTRODUCTION

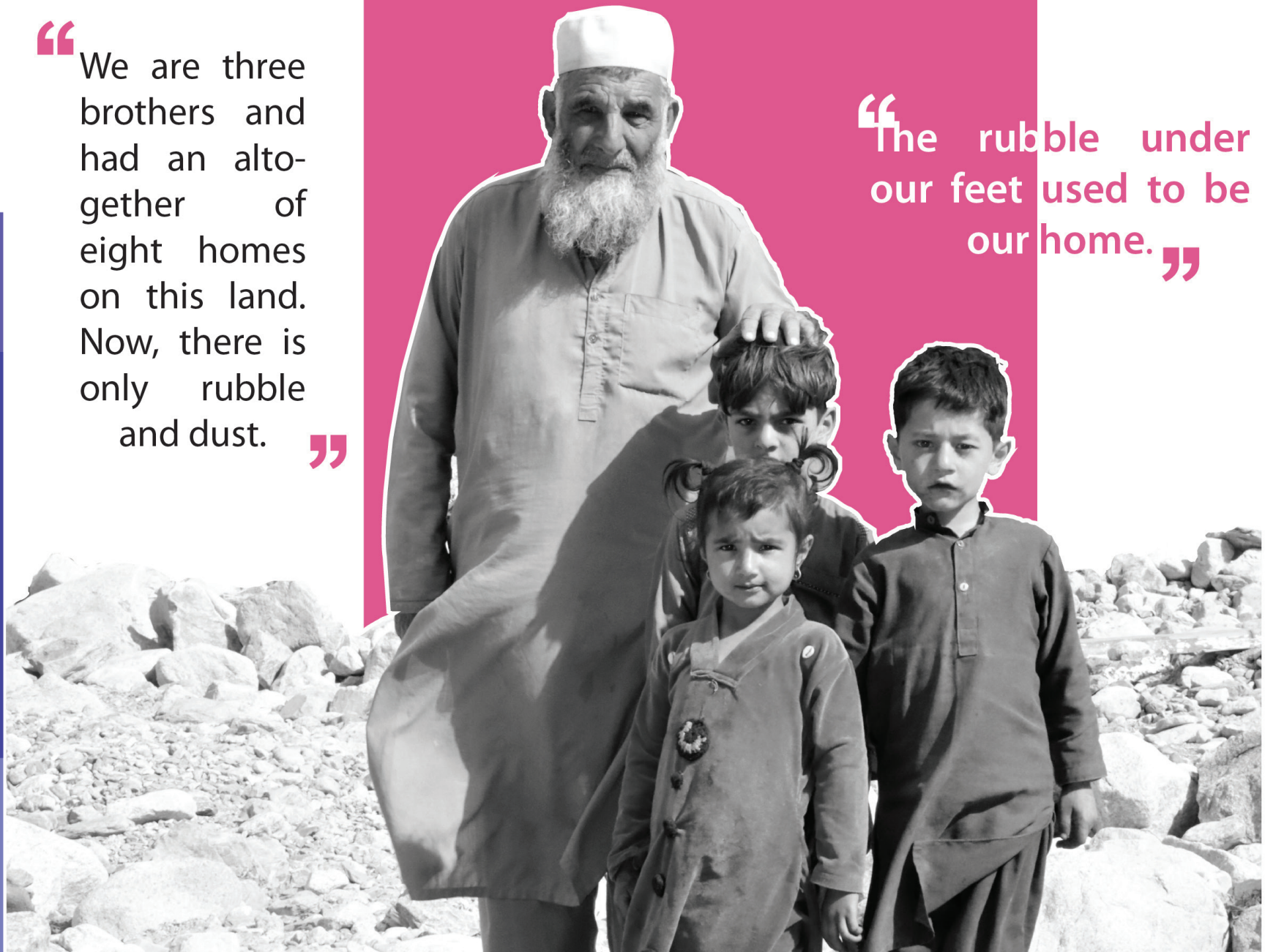
The Scaling-up of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Risk Reduction in Northern Pakistan (GLOF-II Project) is flagship project of Ministry of Climate Change Paksitan (MOCC) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the support of Green Climate Fund (GCF) as a funding partner. The Project has a foot print in 18 districts in Pakistan, covering 24 valleys sixteen in Gilgit Baltistan and eight in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

PEOPLE OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Shireen Khan

Member CBDRMC,
Matiltan Valley,
Swat District,
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

"We are three brothers and had an alto-gether of eight homes on this land. Now, there is only rubble and dust."



"The rubble under our feet used to be our home."

Shakila Akber

Member CBDRMC,
Arkari Valley,
Lower Chitral District,
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

"The Irrigation channels and pipelines reconstructed and rehabilitated under the GLOF-II project have ensured a smooth water supply in our village to our crops and vegetation throughout the spell of these floods. Even the supply of drinking water has remained intact. We know of so many villages which did not have access to water because of the damages caused by the floods. But we were not affected in the way the other villages have been, simply because our water supply was not disrupted."



Malik Rahimullah Kohistani

Chairman Thal CBDRMC ,
Kumrat Valley,
Upper Dir District,
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



"The heavy monsoon rains this year have completely devastated the Kumrat valley. Thirty houses, two mosques, three bridges, and over five-hundred hectares of land has been washed away, with most of the roads and many points on Dir-Kumrat road completely destroyed. But my people still have high hopes. GLOF-II Project has mobilized our community and helped us building our resilience well before the disaster, through soft interventions like Disaster Risk Management trainings, exposure visits for knowledge and experience sharing with community groups from other valleys. The Community Based Disaster Risk Management Committees established by the GLOF-II project have made us self-reliant in responding to natural disasters."

Huma Shaheen

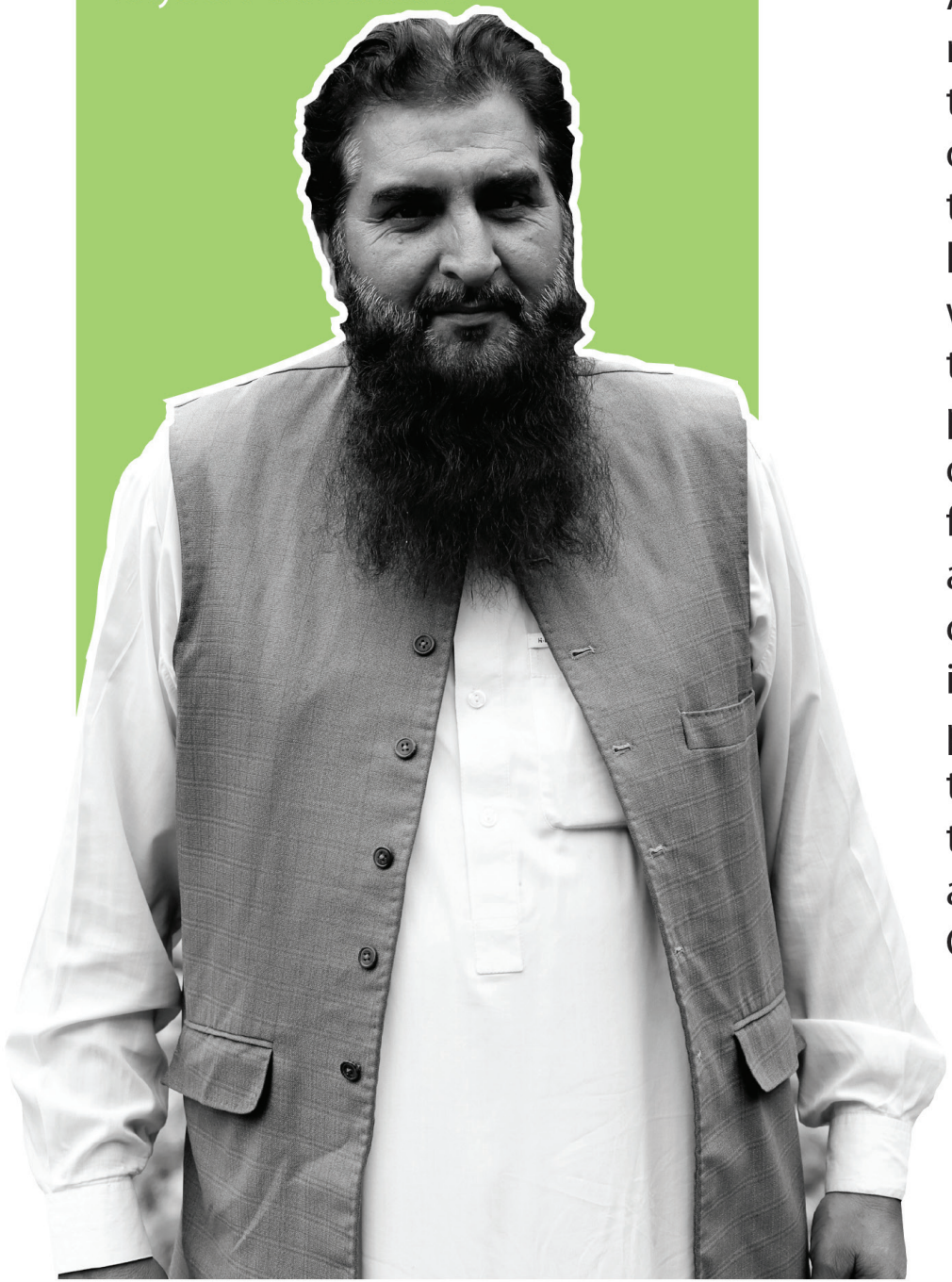
Member CBDRMC,
Madaklasht Valley,
Lower Chitral District,
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

"Because of the protection wall constructed around the electric supply house by the GLOF-II Project, our valley had a continued supply of electricity when the rest of the areas were darkened with the impact of floods."



Malak Zubair

Vice Chairman,
CBDRMC, Utror Valley,
Swat District ,
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

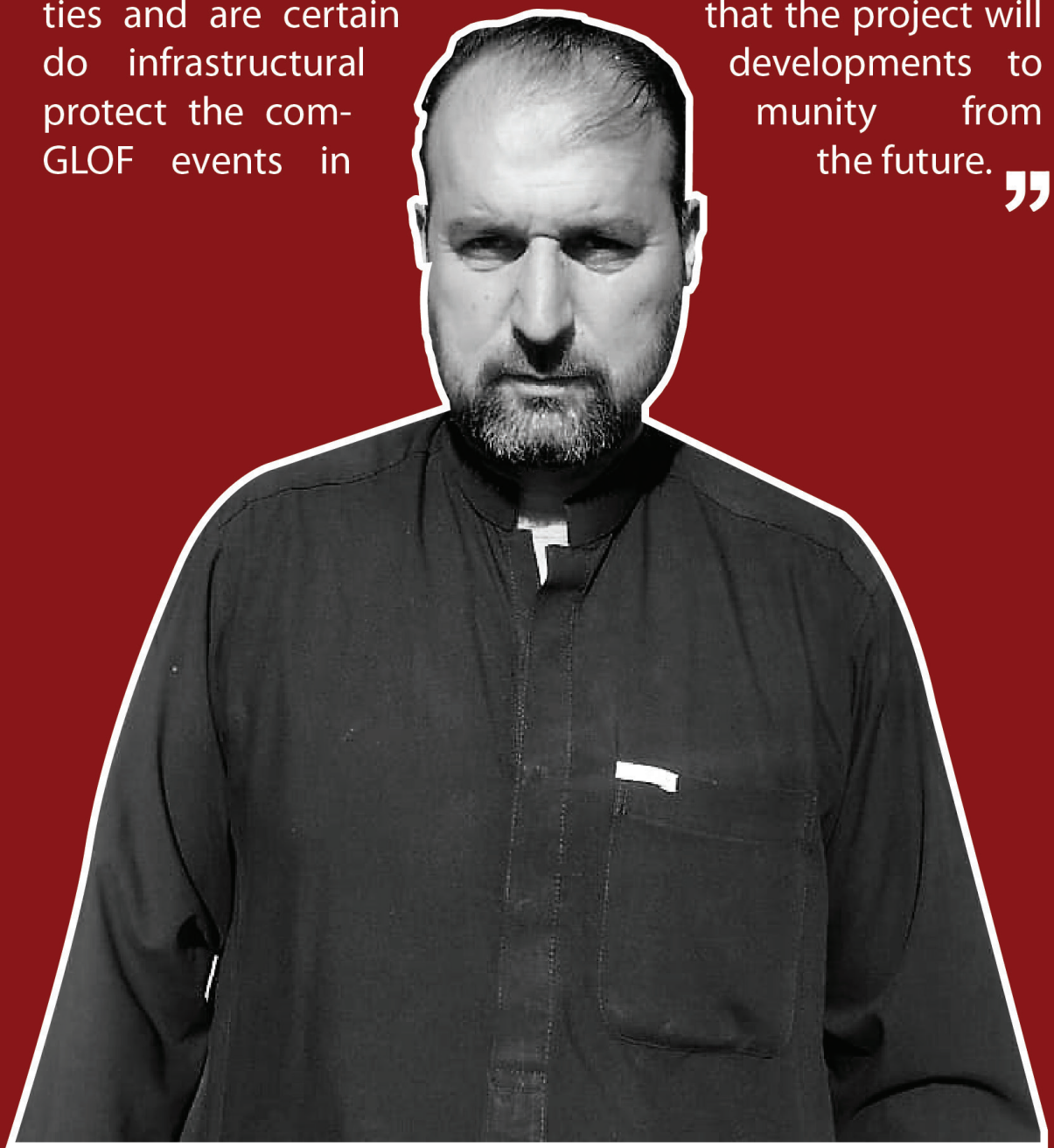


"After the floods of 2015, life in my valley had come to a halt. All the homes were either damaged or completely washed away by the floods. The local community had no source of livelihood and witnessed the most challenging times of their lives. The GLOF-II project started the rehabilitation of the water irrigation channels for the first time in our valley after the floods of 2015. The community is now able to grow its own cash crops like turnips, potatoes, broccoli and corn. In the recent 2022 floods, the irrigation system has been hit once again but we are hopeful that the GLOF-II project will get us back to life once again."

Malik Jahangir

Member CBDRMC,
Mankiyal Valley,
Swat District,
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

"GLOF-II has conducted mock drills and community awareness sessions, which helped the community during the floods in 2022, to not just protect our lives but also the lives of loved ones. We are thankful to the GLOF-II project for their project activities and are certain that the project will do infrastructural developments to protect the community from GLOF events in the future."



Abdul Aziz

Chairman CBDRMC,
Kandia Valley,
Kohistan District,
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

“Kohistan is the most underdeveloped district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with no flood protection mechanism in its Kandia valley. GLOF-II is the first project which has arranged a stakeholder coordination and communication workshop in this valley by taking on-board all the community members, line departments and district administration. Our community suffered greatly during the 2022 floods and we even lost human lives. Despite our losses, we are hopeful and are looking forward to the installation of Early Warning Systems (EWS) in the valley by GLOF-II project”



Sufi Jan

CBDRMC Member,
Matiltan, Swat,
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

"The devastation in our village is heart-breaking because all that was fimiliar to us – our homes, our mosque, our fields, our trees have been totally destroyed. There is nothing here anymore and all that we had is lost.
This place once had houses and agricultural lands. Now, it only has the remains of what we once had."



Khunza Jamal

Member CBDRMC,
Reshun Valley,
Upper Chitral District,
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



"As a member of the CBDRM Committee, I was part of a community reciprocal visit arranged by the GLOF-II Project from Chitral District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Hunza district in Gilgit Baltistan. During the visit, we shared our experiences with each other as affectees of the recent disaster. We spoke of the disaster risks, the history of our valleys and the damages inflicted by the current floods on our communitites. Additionally, we learnt about the GLOF-II project initiatives, which made us feel that we were not alone in our suffering, especially during these testing times. We learnt a lot from each other on how we are coping with our circumstances. I am glad that the GLOF-II Project has included women in these conversations as members of the CBDRM Committee."

PEOPLE OF GILGIT BALTISTAN

Sarah Bibi

Member CBDRMC,
Strangbut Valley,
Skardu District
Gilgit Baltistan



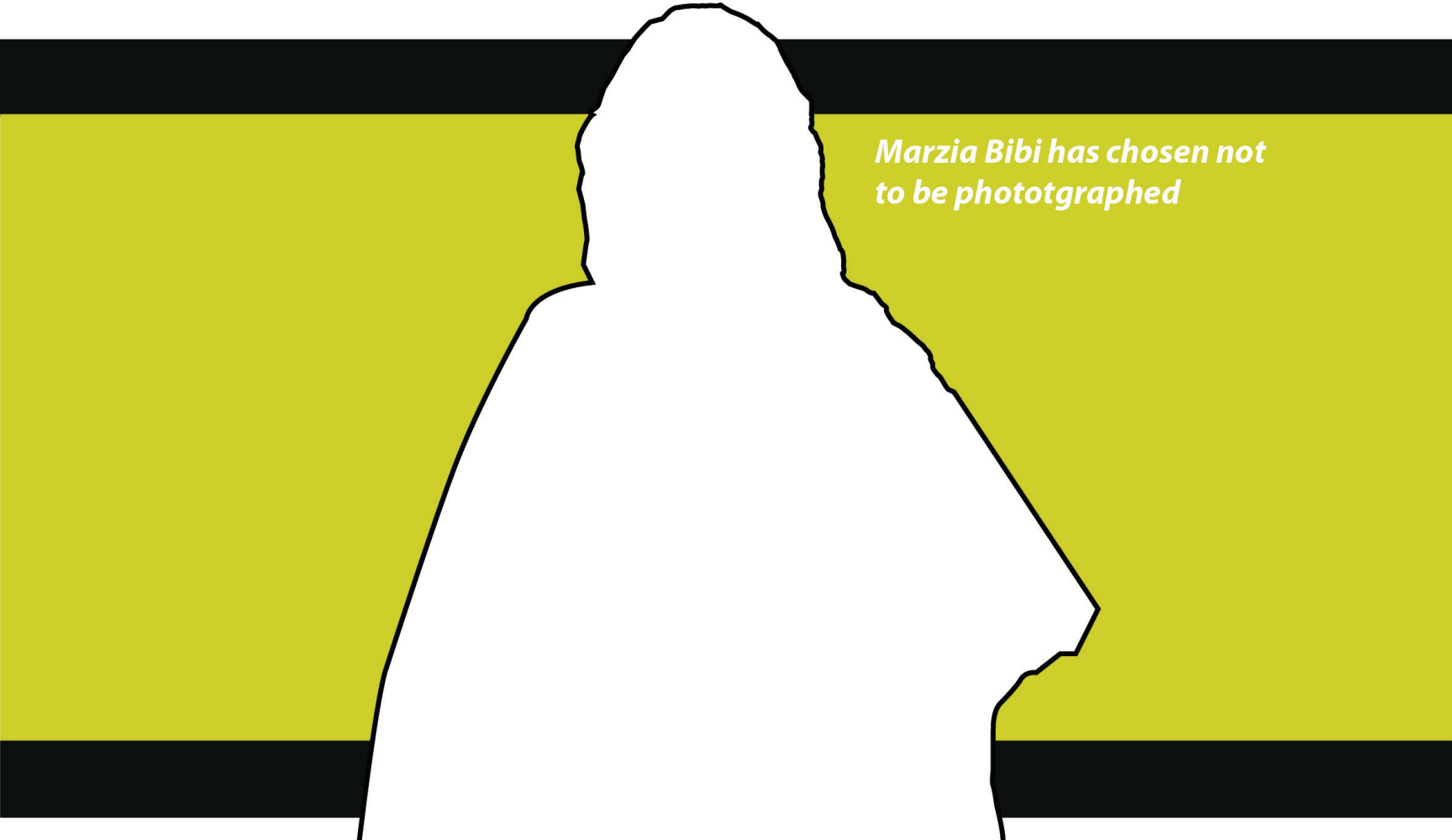
"We have been in a state of trauma since the floods have hit our homes. People get terrified even if they hear a distant noise, thinking that a natural calamity has hit them again. People like us who live close to the river are always feeling unsafe. So many of my family and friends have lost their homes. In these difficult times, when we know that disaster can take away our homes in an instant, the GLOF-II Project gives us hope with its activities and through Disaster Management Trainings. We are able to protect ourselves and rebuild our community."

Marzia Bibi

**Member CBDRMC,
Ghundus Valley,
Kharmang District,
Gilgit Baltistan**

GLOF-II Project is grateful to Marzia Bibi for donating an area of her land for the construction of the Community Based Disaster Risk Management Committee Centre in Ghundus Valley.

"GLOF-II Project is continuously building the capacities of our people to respond to disasters and to manage its risks. I trust the work of the project and I want our communities to be fully aware of the pre and post disaster risk mitigation activities. No one wants to lose their loved ones through a disaster and that is why this project is so important to us."



Shaheen Karim

Chairman CBDRMC,
Shimshal Valley,
Hunza District,
Gilgit Baltistan



"GLOF-II Project has conducted several trainings on Disaster Risk Management, formed an emergency response team, planted several plants, surveyed five locations for construction of water channels as part of the Project initiatives. The work of the Project has been exceptional here in Shimshal with the support of provicial departments. This project has benefitted us in so many ways especially during these tough times when the whole of Gilgit Baltistan has been severely affected by the floods."

Mohammad Jabir

Member CBDRMC,
Barah Valley,
Ghanche District,
Gilgit Baltistan

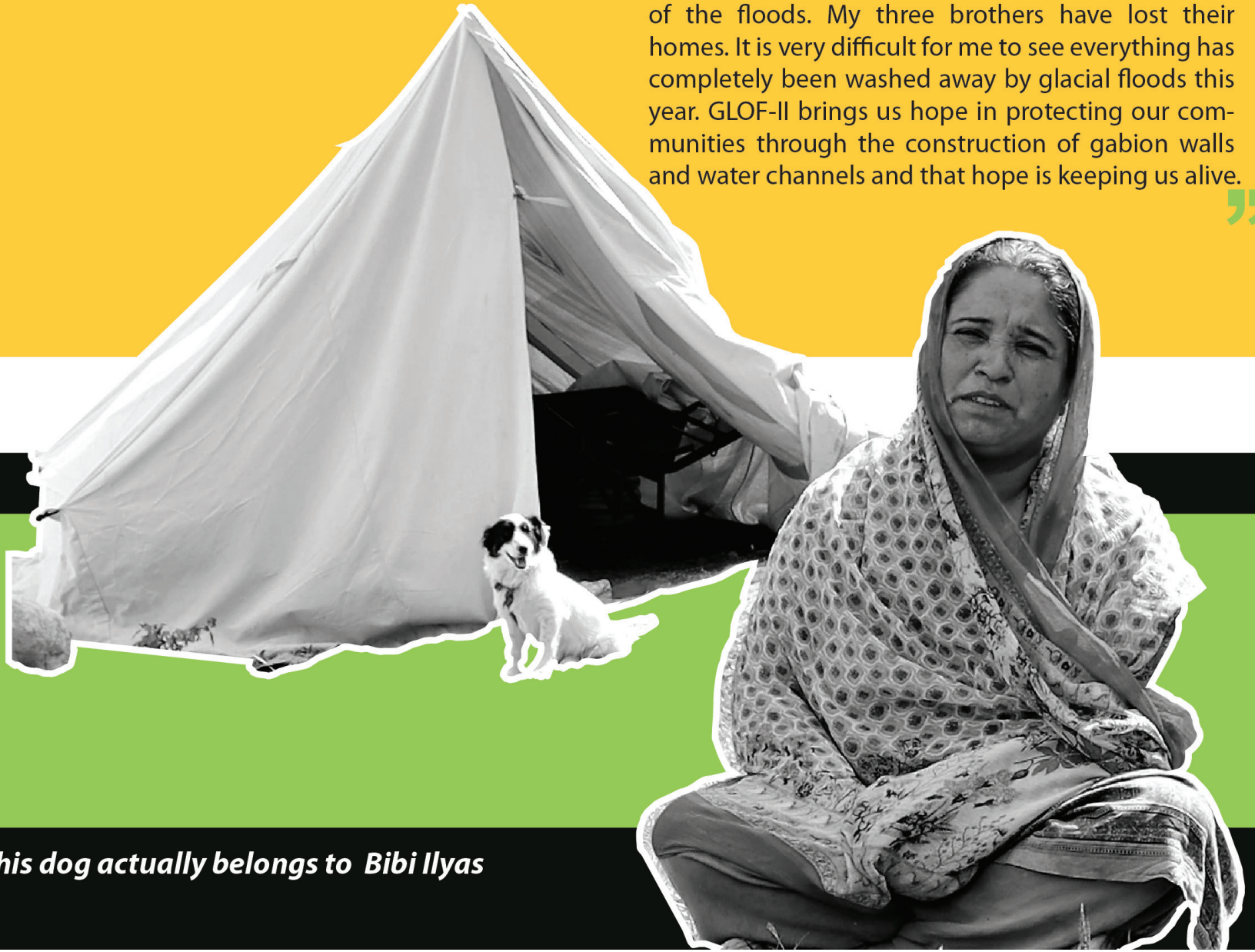


"The water channel constructed under the GLOF-II Project is a source of nourishment for our fields and vegetation. Previously, getting water for our fields was extremely difficult, resulting in losing our crops and vegetation. Our food source was compromised that way, which has been revived by the GLOF-II Project through its interventions."

Bibi Ilyas

Member CBDRMC,
Shishper Valley,
Hunza District,
Gilgit Baltistan

"The floods have completely washed away our home and our land, and although a Protection Wall was under construction, it could not sustain the pressure of the floods. My three brothers have lost their homes. It is very difficult for me to see everything has completely been washed away by glacial floods this year. GLOF-II brings us hope in protecting our communities through the construction of gabion walls and water channels and that hope is keeping us alive."



This dog actually belongs to Bibi Ilyas

Sheikh Fida Hussain

Chairman CBDRMC,
Hisper Valley,
Nagar District,
Gilgit Baltistan



"I am grateful to UNDP for the GLOF-II initiative as this project is exclusively dealing with disasters like GLOFs in Northern Pakistan. Our community has been trained on Disaster Management, First Aid Mock Drills, while Hazard Watch Groups have also been mobilized by the GLOF-II Project. These trainings are preparing us to manage risks posed by Climate Change, especially after the devastation caused by the recent floods."

Sitara Parveen

Member CBDRMC,
Ghulkin/Hussaini Valley,
Hunza District,
Gilgit Baltistan

“We have more than two-hundred households here in Ghulkin Valley and not all the agricultural land had access to water. GLOF-II project has benefitted us to a greater extent as our water canals (irrigation channels) have been rehabilitated and now the households can easily irrigate their crops. Since our valley is highly disaster prone, we are grateful to the GLOF-II Project for actively working on overcoming water scarcity and disaster risks through its interventions.”



Yasir Arafat

Chairman CBDRMC,
Haramosh Valley,
Gilgit District,
Gilgit Baltistan



“GLOF-II Project has rehabilitated the existing water channels in our valley, which are over a thousand years old and GLOF-II took the initiative to make them properly functional again. Utilizing the old channels for water provision has been extremely helpful as we now have a sustainable supply of water essential for the livelihood of the Haramosh Valley.”

Nazuk Bibi

Member CBDRMC,
Badswat Valley,
Ghizer District,
Gilgit Baltistan



"We always expect floods to storm through our valleys in the Summers. These floods cause an enormous amount of destruction and leave us quite scared of the impact. During this time, it always worries us especially if a woman is expecting a child and is close to her delivery. In some situations, we usually have to wait for the water level to go down so that we can safely reach the hospital. Through the GLOF-II Project, we get to meet a lot of women from other valleys who go through similar experiences. Because of the women participation in the CBDRMC we get to learn together on Disaster Risk Management through Search and Rescue Trainings and about othe GLOF-II activities."

Didar Wali

General secretary,
CBDRMC Badswat Valley,
Ghizer District,
Gilgit Baltistan



"On behalf of the Badswat community, I am thankful to GLOF-II Project for launching their interventions in the extremely deprived areas of Ghizer District. The Project work has greatly benefitted our people. We had a peaceful and happy life prior to the floods which drastically changed after the 17th of July 2018, when forty-two households were wiped away by the GLOF. Everything changed for us as our houses were completely destroyed, but luckily, no human lives were lost. The work done by the GLOF-II Project in our valley is commendable, starting from surveys carried out in 2019 to actual on-ground implementation, from mock drills to channelization (of irrigation systems), everything has been done timely. Protective works have already been initiated. 2500 trees planted in Badswat in April 2021 have also contributed positively to the enviroment. The construction of the CBDRM Centre will also be completed by the end of this year I am again very thankful to GLOF-II for executing this project smoothly."

Abdul Rauf

General secretary CBDRMC,
Rupal Valley,
Astore District,
Gilgit Baltistan

"GLOF-II has constructed a CBDRM Centre in our valley. This centre can be used for community meetings and for safely storing the Hazard Watch Group equipment provided by the GLOF-II Project. It can be used in times of emergency as a Safe Haven to accommodate the community. The GLOF-II project is constructing almost a five-hundred feet long protective wall, and irrigation channels which will greatly help in supplying water to the agricultural lands of this valley."



Hassan Jan

Secretary Finance
CBDRMC,
Arindu Valley,
Shigar District,
Gilgit Baltistan

"The Arindu valley has always been challenged by water scarcity especially when it is hit by floods. The GLOF-II Project is helping our valley in sustaining the impact of the floods, and ensuring that our livelihood is not heavily affected. The project is working on slope stabilization, tree plantation, rehabilitation of water channels and the construction of small check dams in our valley. The Project is also conducting multiple trainings and awareness sessions were conducted like the 'Glacier Cleanup' campaign, in which both women and men from the community participated. The community has also been trained on the segregation of waste and its safe disposal."



Muhammad Mir Khan

Member CBDRMC,
Sosat Valley,
Ghizer District,
Gilgit Baltistan

“The floods have caused huge destructions throughout these valleys. If you walk around, you can see the broken roads and damaged houses. In times like these, what gives strength to our community is the GLOF-II Project. Community Based Disaster Risk Management Committees are also mobilzed by the Project, and we as members of the committee, through discussions, are preparing ourselves to manage the disasters.”



Zar Muhammad

Chairman CBDRMC,
Darkut Valley,
Ghizer District,
Gilgit Baltistan

"I am thankful to the GLOF-II project for its interventions. Darkut valley is highly disaster prone and the project has inititated the construction of a fifteen-hundred feet long protective wall. Around 70% of the households are protected by this structure when the flood comes with heavy flow of water. This protective wall has already saved our land in the recent floods of 2022. Survey for rehibilation of irrigation channels have been completed by the GLOF-II, and soon the civil work will commence. Through these water channels, people would be able to cultivate their crops and earn their livelihood."



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GLOF-II Project Saving these Beautiful Smiles!



PC: Shazad Ahmad / UNDP Pakistan

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Scaling-up of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Risk Reduction in Northern Pakistan **(GLOF-II PROJECT)**

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GREEN CLIMATE FUND

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