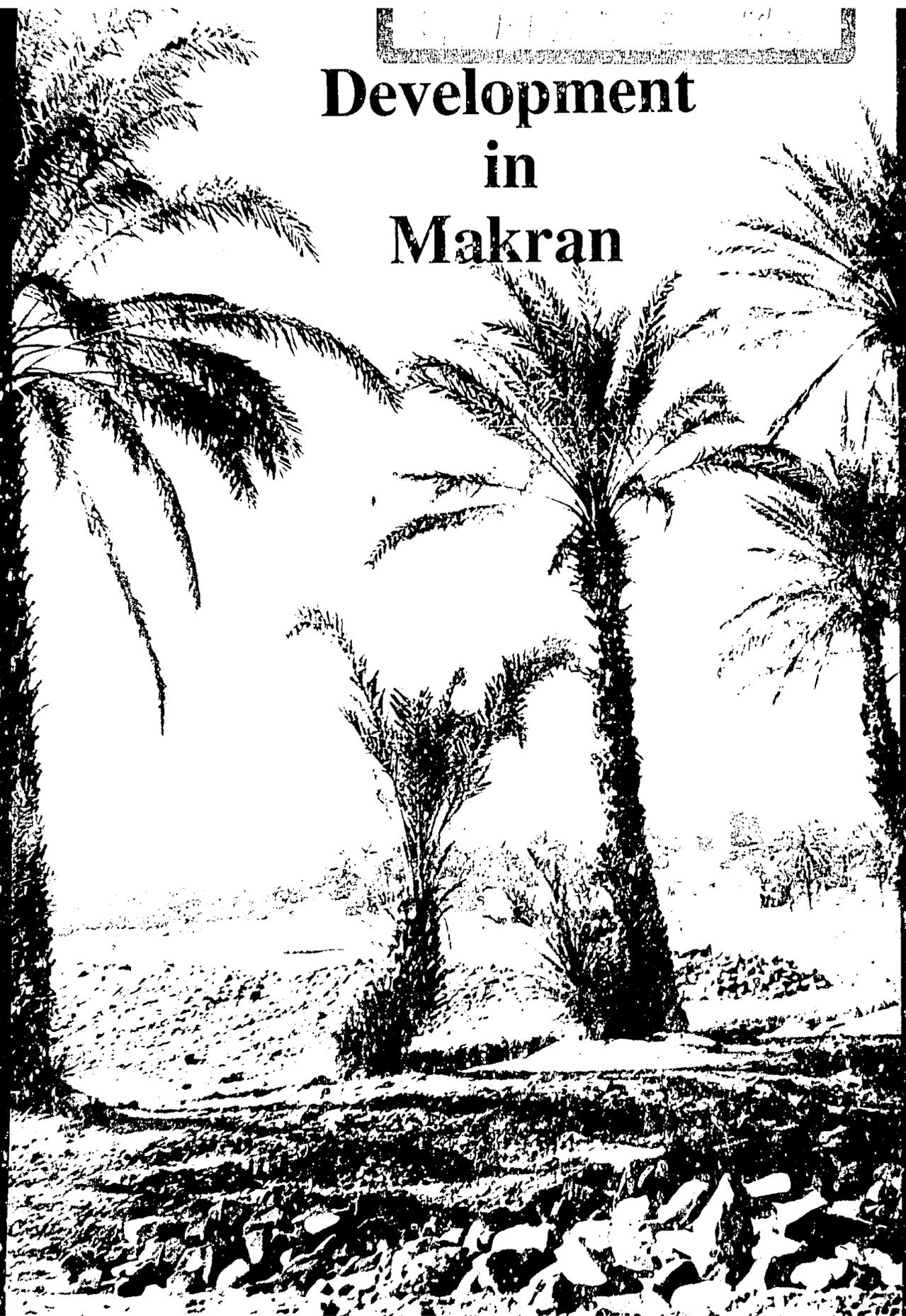


Development in Makran



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Introduction

The Baluchistan Area Development (BALAD) project is one of several activities supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in response to Government of Pakistan requests to fund programs aimed at bringing the benefits of development to some of the more isolated areas of the country.

A variety of BALAD sub-projects are working to improve transportation, increase water availability, expand schools and provide needed training to local Baluch. The Government of Baluchistan is the implementing agency. USAID is providing \$45 million in grant funds in support of the project.

This booklet provides a summary of some of the main initiatives now underway as part of the BALAD project in Makran Division. Although development in isolated areas such as Makran is difficult, the activities started under the BALAD project have an impact and are already improving the lives of people in the area.



**Robert Traister,
USAID Regional Affairs Officer,
Baluchistan.**

The Area

Makran Division, located in the southwest corner of Baluchistan province, is one of the most isolated regions of Pakistan. Karachi is a two-day drive away, as is the provincial capital Quetta. The entire division of more than 30,000 square miles has less than 60 miles of metalled roads.

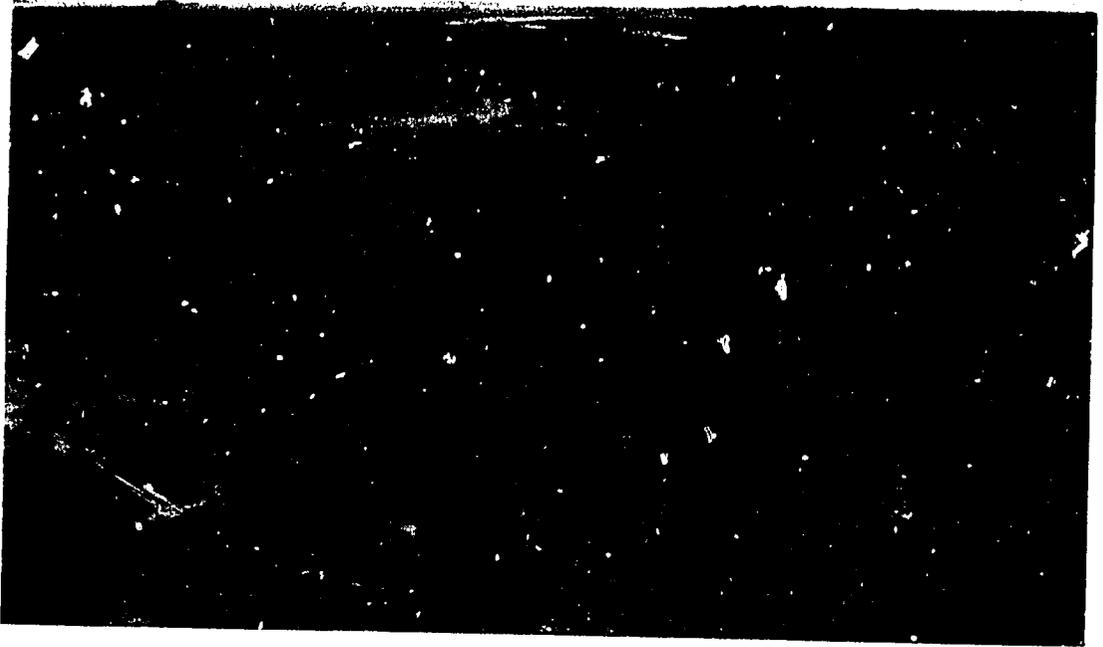
Three mountain ranges -- the Makran Coast Range, the Central Makran Range, and the Northern Siahan Range -- cut across Makran.

Much of the landscape is harsh and forbidding. Temperature extremes make life difficult, especially during summer months. Even the place names -- Turbat means "tomb", Panjgur "five graves" -- reflect the difficulty and hardship which for centuries has been so much a part of life in Makran.

About 95 percent of the estimated 650,000 people live on less than 5 percent of the land. Most people are



Many roads in Makran follow old caravan routes and most still consist simply of dirt tracks



The landscape of Makran is harsh but often beautiful. Land is only productive where water is available

concentrated around limited irrigated areas in the two northern districts of Turbat and Panjgur, and in the scattered fishing villages of Gwadar district. Employment is scarce and many people move to Karachi or the Middle East in search of work.

Agriculture remains the most important economic activity in Makran, though fishing is also significant along the coast. Panjgur and Turbat in

particular are famous for their dates.

Irrigation is essential for agriculture and depends primarily on *karezes* or *kaurjos*. A *karez* is a long underground water channel, while a *kaurjo* is an open ditch carrying water diverted from a stream. *Bunds* or check dams are sometimes also constructed to delay water runoff as part of an effort to preserve and more efficiently use this scarce resource.

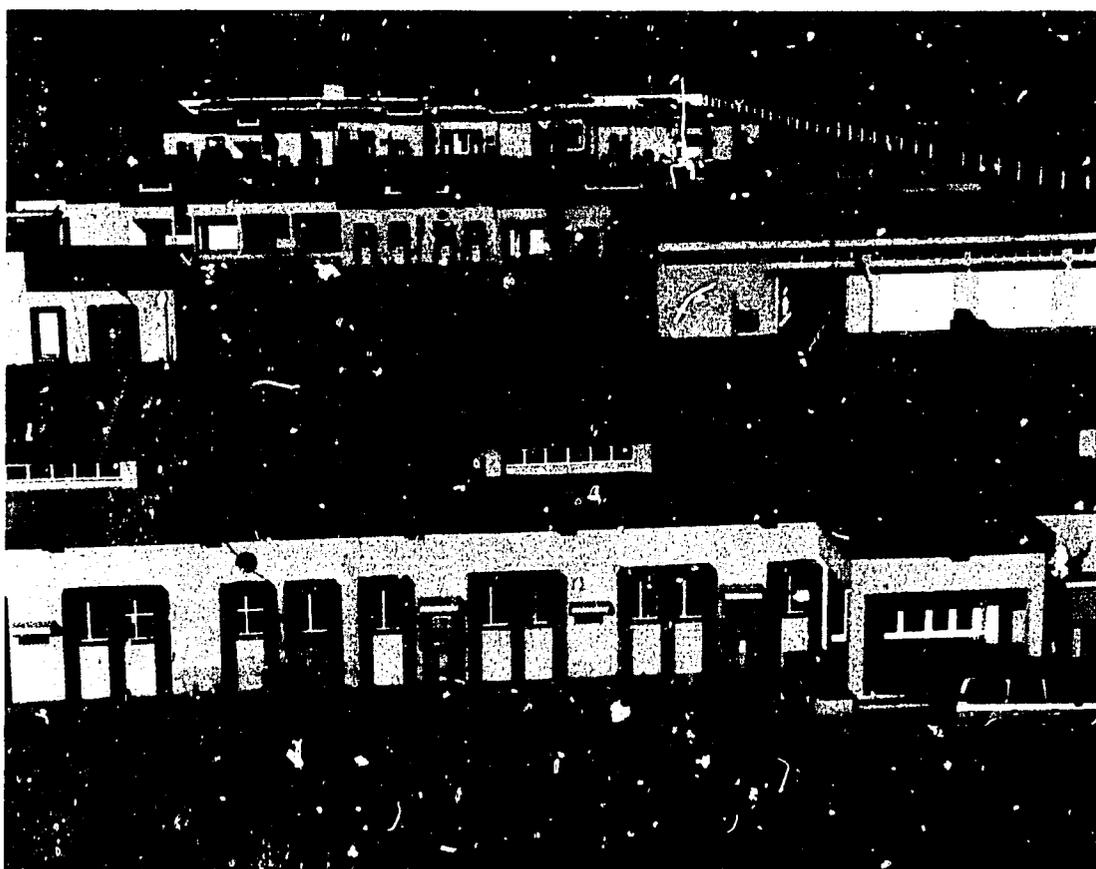
Beginnings of the BALAD Project

At the request of the Government of Pakistan, USAID agreed to provide \$45 million in grant funding for the Baluchistan Area Development (BALAD) project which focuses almost entirely on the Turbat and Panjgur districts of Makran Division.

The initial project agreement was signed in August 1984 and project implementation began in earnest by summer 1985. The mix of activities was from the beginning shaped by the major needs of Makran: roads,

training, and water resource development.

Work during the first two years of implementation included the establishment and construction of a project office in Turbat, completion of engineering surveys and designs, and procurement of needed equipment. The Government of Baluchistan also established a Project Planning and Management Unit (PPMU) in Turbat. Having laid this foundation, the project is moving ahead with major activities in a variety of areas.



The BALAD project headquarters complex in Turbat, completed in April, 1987

Major Project Activities

Road Construction and Improvement

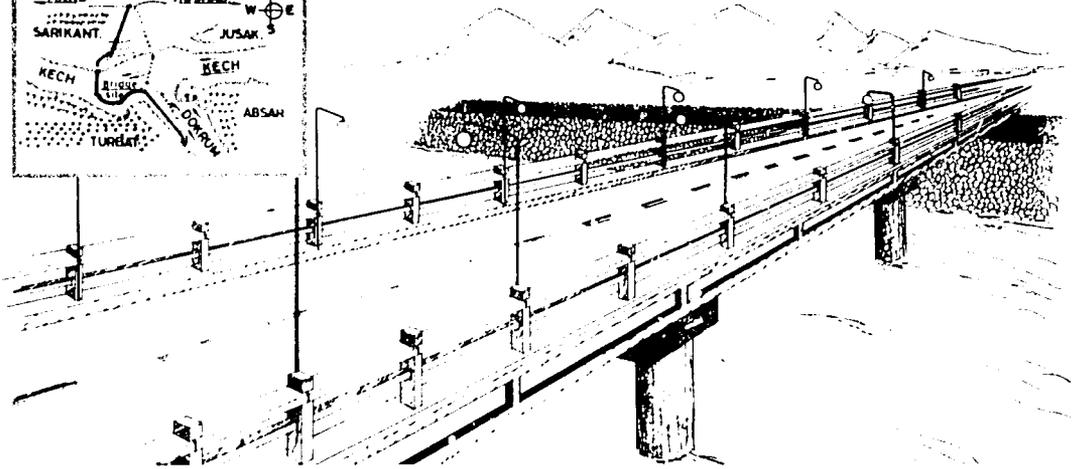
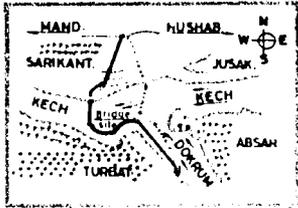
Bela-Awaran Road: The construction of the Bela-Awaran road as the "gateway" to Makran is widely seen as one of the most critical development needs. The dirt track now in place follows old caravan routes, winding through hills and mountains and across dry river beds. Design work for construction of a 101 kilometer segment of road is complete and construction is expected to begin in the near future. Meanwhile, work is going ahead for the design of a 255

kilometer Awaran-Turbat extension that would ultimately reduce the travel time from Karachi to Turbat to about nine hours.

Kech River Bridge: Rain is rare in Makran, but when it does occur, empty streams and dry riverbeds quickly fill up and can stop traffic for days. Sudden storms flood dry riverbeds which are often used as roads and, on occasion, lives are lost when a vehicle is swept away. In an effort to



USAID-financed road grading work in Makran



Design plans for Kech river bridge, Turbat

begin dealing with this problem, USAID is funding construction of the Kech River bridge outside Turbat. An 85 million rupee contract for the bridge and 4 kilometer approach road construction has been signed and work is now underway.

Turbat Town Roads: Even today,

many of the roads in the Division headquarters are unpaved. At the request of the local administration, BALAD funds were used to fund a section of road in the main market-place area. Other improvements are underway, including paving of one of the main "dual carriageways" leading into Turbat town.



USAID financed bulldozer in operation on the Turbat-Hoshab road under the maintenance program

Road Maintenance and Improvement. Relatively minor repair and maintenance can result in significant improvements in the hundreds of kilometers of dirt tracks which cut across Makran. To help the provincial Communications and Works (C&W) Department improve its capabilities, USAID is supplying about \$3 million in modern heavy equipment. In addition, it is financing on a pilot basis maintenance and improvements on major roads such as Turbat-Mand, Turbat-Awaran, and Turbat-Gwadar. Some reconstruction is also underway, along with the construction of needed water crossing and culverts.



C&W jackhammer operators receive on-the-job training near Turbat

Water Resource Development

More efficient water use is central to improved agricultural productivity. In Makran, water is scarce but innovative techniques if properly used can improve water flows and allow additional land to be brought under cultivation. Nearly two dozen separate water schemes have already been

completed in Turbat and Panjgur and many more are planned or underway.

Karez : A variety of methods are being used to improve karez efficiency. In some cases, "dying" karezes are "revived" simply by boring into deeper aquifers. Syphons and other



Watercourse financed under the BALAD project nearing completion in Panjgur

relatively simple devices are also being introduced as a response to flash floods which in the past have often destroyed karez channels cut across dry river beds.

Dams : Too little water is an acute problem in Makran -- except immediately following a storm, when flash

floods quickly run-off through nullahs and dry riverbeds. Efficient water management is based in part on developing ways to delay water run-off and reduce water losses in command areas. A number of small delay action dams have already been constructed near Turbat and others are planned.



Newly completed check dam near Turbat

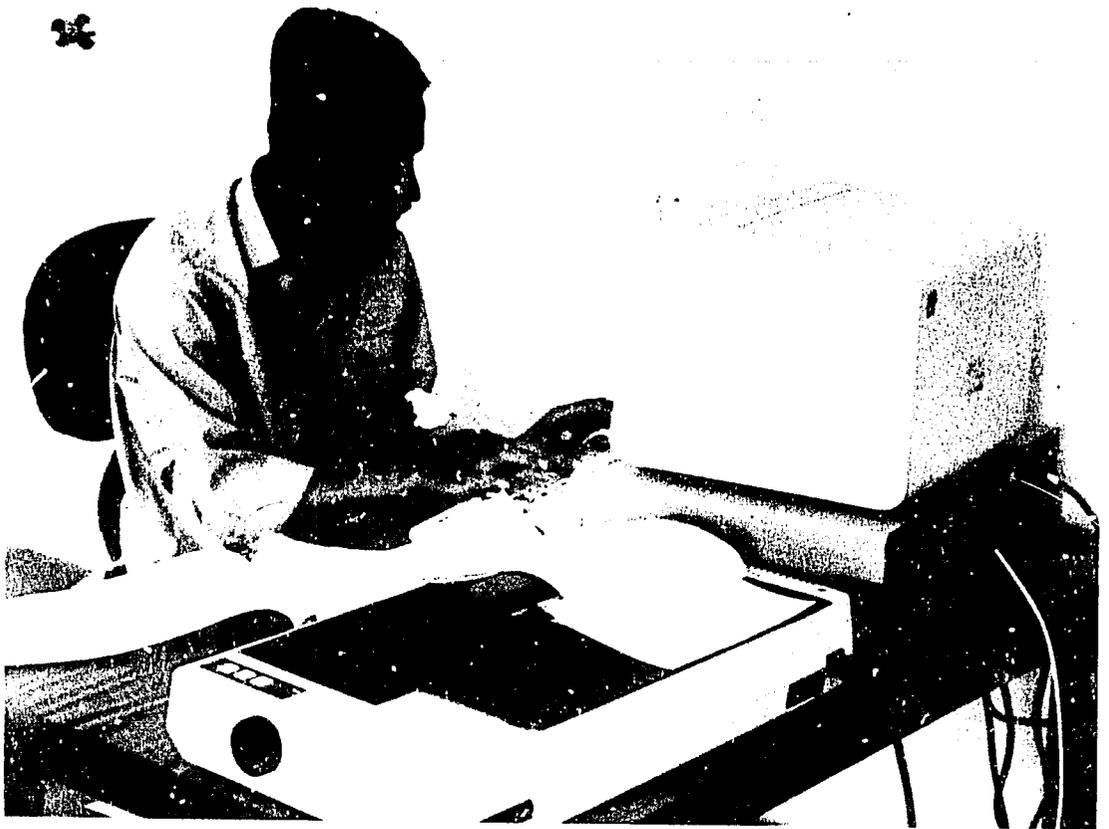
Training Programs

Overseas Technical Training Program :
Long-term USAID financed training is usually limited to the Masters or Doctoral level. Nevertheless, in response to requests from the Government of Baluchistan and the special needs of Makran, a special overseas scholarship program was developed and is now well underway.

Approximately fifty local students interested in receiving technical training abroad were competitively selected. Following intensive English language training programs in Islamabad, Singapore, and Florida, the students are being placed in a variety of training programs in the United States for periods ranging from six months to



Baluch students in English language training program in USA



Computerization of Baluchistan Planning and Development Department is being carried out under BALAD Project. Picture shows a trainee at the Computer Centre, P&D, Quetta with USAID supplied equipment

two years. Several areas have so far been covered, including health, auto-mechanics, computers and other technical fields.

Other Training: In numerous ways BALAD is helping to improve human resources in Baluchistan. On-the-job training is offered to C&W staff related both to maintenance and the provision of new equipment. A

special computer cell has been established in the provincial Planning and Development Department at Quetta which has automated preparation of the provincial development plan and is processing statistics gathered during a socio-economic survey of Makran. Finally, local contractors carrying out construction financed under BALAD are benefitting through close involvement of and assistance received from BALAD staff.

Special Development Activities

Basic infrastructure is one of the most pressing needs in Makran. At the same time, small-scale development activities have a role to play in improving the lives of people. From the beginning, BALAD included provisions for "special development activities" such as the construction of schools, health units, or drinking water schemes. So far, 22 school projects have been completed in Turbat

and Panjgur. Most of these projects involve the construction of additional rooms to help relieve crowded classroom conditions. Education in particular is a pressing need — the male literacy rate in Makran is estimated at 10 percent, while for females it is about 1 percent. Further activities planned include construction of a basic health unit and more schools, especially for girls.



Additional classrooms built under the BALAD Special Development Activities (SDA) program will help alleviate overcrowding in this primary school for girls in Turbat

BALAD PROJECT ACTIVITY AT A GLANCE

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LEGEND

- ROAD IMPROVEMENT 
- ROAD CONSTRUCTION 
- SDA SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS 
- IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENTS 
- INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY 
- DIVISIONAL BOUNDARY 
- DISTRICT BOUNDARY 

