Ehsaas Emergency Cash — Biometric Cashpoints Removing the PIN Barrier for Low-Literacy Women in Pakistan

Digital Inclusion · Good practice · Pakistan

Quality score: 92/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

Facing evidence that low-literacy women struggle with PIN-based ATMs, Pakistan's Ehsaas Emergency Cash paid COVID-19 stipends via fingerprint-only biometric cashpoints instead, reaching ~15 million households, with ~54% of payments going directly to women.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Innovation level	3/5
Sustainability (ongoing)	1/1
Evaluation evidence	1/1
Demonstrated reach	1/1
Documented learning	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-22

Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) / Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division — accessed 2026-08-22

World Bank — Using Biometrics to Deliver Cash Payments to Women: Early Results — accessed 2026-08-22

Center for Global Development — Women's Access to Cash Transfers in Light of COVID-19: The Case of Pakistan — accessed 2026-08-22

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