

CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVERNANCE, AND INFRASTRUCTURE FAILURES IN PAKISTAN'S 2022 FLOODS: AN EXAMINATION OF SYSTEMIC WEAKNESSES

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Abstract

The research paper provides an in-depth analysis of the societal, economic, and ecological impacts of the catastrophic floods in Pakistan in 2022. It presents these floods not just as an isolated natural disaster but as a climate-related event worsened by the country's institutional weaknesses. Using a qualitative research approach and an analysis based on secondary data, such as official government reports and UN status updates, the study explores both the immediate and long-term effects of the disaster. The findings show that the floods affected one-third (33%) of the country's land, caused roughly \$30 billion in damages, displaced 8 million people, and severely damaged key agricultural and healthcare infrastructure. This disaster resulted in a major humanitarian crisis, increasing nutritional shortages for 5.7 million people and causing long-term ecological harm due to the loss of arable land and contaminated drinking water. The research emphasizes that the scale of destruction reveals critical gaps in climate resilience and disaster response efforts, making Pakistan a clear example of climate injustice. The findings have important implications for the global financial system, particularly for the implementation of loss- and damage-funding mechanisms. They also highlight the urgent need for coordinated climate-adaptive recovery strategies in vulnerable developing states.

Keywords: *Climate resilience, flood, hydrological catastrophe, food, disaster management*

Introduction

The monsoon flooding of 2022 in Pakistan epitomizes a devastating hydrological event of unprecedented magnitude in the country's modern record, amounting to an intense humanitarian catastrophe and a pivotal point in global environmental discourse. The calamity occurred between June and October 2022, distinguished not only by a single flood wave but also by a persistent multistage series of pluvial, fluvial, and glacial-melt mechanisms that culminated in the submersion of nearly one-third of the country. This event surpassed the standard annual rainy-season inundation, transforming into a nationwide disaster that engulfed landscapes, displaced communities on a scale comparable to the migration of an entire country, and caused fundamental economic destruction from which rehabilitation will extend over years (UNDP, 2022).

The disaster's immensity is starkly assessed through its consequences. Approximately 33 million people, constituting 15% of Pakistan's population, were directly affected, with over 8 million displaced from their homes (PDMA Sindh, 2022; NDMA Pakistan, 2022). The human death count encompassed 1739 documented mortalities and 12,867 injuries, statistics that just indicate instant fatality and not the substantial successive community health crises that came after. (NDMA, 2022a). The territorial extent of devastation was enormous more than 2.2 million residences were destroyed, 13,115 km of roads were damaged and 1,460 medical institutions were affected, disrupting critical lifelines for countermeasures and rehabilitation (World Bank 2022a). The financial impact was shocking with aggregate destruction and damages approximated at 30.13 billion USD, and restoration requirements estimated at 16.26 billion USD equal to approximately 10% of the country's GDP for FY2021-22 (GoP, 2022). The agrarian industry, the subsistence foundation for almost 40% of population was crippled, with over 4.4 million hectares of crops destroyed, explicitly jeopardizing domestic nutritional stability (FAO, 2022).

Nevertheless, to portray this disaster just as "natural disaster" would be a misinterpretation. The 2022 floods were, fundamentally a "climate catastrophe made manifest" (World Weather Attribution, 2022). Pakistan in spite of emitting small amount of global greenhouse gas which is less than 1%, ended up itself as epicenter of intensifying global warming consequences. The disaster was clear cut outcome of multifaceted, climatic, hydrological and geological phenomenon, intensified by rising-temperature planet. It was triggered by severe rainy season, where several regions in south, experience 500-700% of their coupled 30 years average, extreme heatwave in pre-monsoon phase, which sped up glacial thawing throughout the Hindukush, Karakoram and Himalayan ranges (PMD, 2022; IPCC, 2022). This double impact of extreme rainfall and increased glacial runoff swamped the Indus River Basin's water management capability, converting rivers into huge inland water bodies.

This section aims to set out the underlying perspective of the 2022 catastrophe. It proceeds chronicle effects to frame the catastrophe in the context of the threefold model of intense climate pressure, intrinsic topographic fragility, and deep-seated social and economic susceptibility. It contends the catastrophe's extraordinary seriousness was not an exception but an expected consequence of intersecting risk contributors: a shifting climate action uplifting environment left susceptible by years of ecological decline (e.g., deforestation, exploitative soil management), affecting inhabitants where significant levels of impoverishment, an unregulated sector, and infrastructure shortfalls caused severe vulnerability (ADB, 2022).

Research objectives

- To assess climatic-hydrological factors along with diverse consequences from the specific 2022 Pakistan's catastrophic floods.
- To thoroughly assess the implemented efficacy and impartiality regarding multi-stakeholder agency reaction alongside rehabilitation frameworks.
- To analyze underlying structural administrative shortcomings, strategic shortcomings, and socio-economic fragilities that intensified the overall calamity.
- To construct a coherent practical data-driven overarching blueprint to guide radical climatic adaptability and effective hazard management within Pakistan.

Research questions

- How did particular climatic and glacial elements interact to trigger the catastrophic 2022 inundations?
- How successful and impartial were various governmental relief systems?

- How did structural administrative shortcomings lead toward devastating fragility?
- Which fundamental transformations are deemed critical for constructing preventative climatic adaptability?

Research Methodology

This research employs a specific phased multi-method approach. The first phase focuses on analyzing records and satellite data to map the extent of the disaster. This is followed by a qualitative methodology that includes a governance review, examining formal documents, the structure of disaster response, and relevant research papers. This analysis aims to assess collaboration efforts and identify shortcomings in execution. By integrating these results within an analytical and complex systems framework, the study aims to produce a final synthesis of recommendations for systematic reform and the policymaking process in Pakistan.

The Disaster Event, Multidimensional and Magnitude Impacts

Contextualizing the 2022 Hydrological Catastrophe

The year 2022 saw an unprecedented fluvial disaster in South Asia, particularly across Pakistan. This event went beyond the conventional definition of a climatic tragedy, evolving into a synergistic disaster wherein intense atmospheric conditions, vulnerable glacial structures, and significant societal vulnerabilities intersected (UNDRR, 2022). This calamity was not a standalone event but rather a sequence of occurrences triggered by record-breaking heatwaves during the pre-monsoon season, culminating in an exceptionally intense and persistent rainy season. At its peak, the resulting floods submerged approximately one-third of the country, an area comparable to the total landmass of the United Kingdom, directly affecting 33 million people, which is about 15% of Pakistan's population (World Bank, 2022). This research aims to analyze the 2022 floods from a multidimensional perspective, exploring their climatic precursors, geographical and chronological changes, and its cascading effects on societal survival, health, infrastructure, and the economy. The disaster serves as a stark example of the current geological epoch, highlighting the increasing dangers posed by global warming to geospatially and demographically vulnerable regions (IPCC, 2022).

Meteorological Precursors and Hydrological Dynamics

The 2022 inundations constituted specific consequence of “ideal storm scenario” of atmospheric aberrations, where the dual worldwide atmospheric configurations and local meteorological mechanisms converged to generate devastating consequences.

Precipitation Anomalies and Monsoonal Amplification

The primary catalyst for the situation was an unusually severe and prolonged monsoon season. From June to August 2022, Pakistan experienced approximately 190% of its 30-year average rainfall. The southern regions of Sindh and Baluchistan were particularly hard-hit, with rainfall reaching 450% and 410% of their respective averages (PMD, 2022).

The rainy season was dominated by a persistent trough over Pakistan, driven by an intense La Niña phenomenon, which marked its third consecutive year. This phenomenon typically leads to increased precipitation in certain areas (WMO, 2022). Additionally, a significant merging of atmospheric streams, along with an unusually strong upper-level flow, directed continuous humid weather patterns from the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal straight into Pakistan (Webster et al., 2022). An analysis by the World Weather Attribution consortium found that peak rainfall over a specific 5-day period in the severely affected Sindh and Baluchistan provinces was approximately 75% heavier than what might have occurred in a global scenario without a 1.2°C

rise in climate temperature. This made such extreme weather events not only more plausible but also more intense (World Weather Attribution).

Cryosphere contributions: Glacial Melt and Snowpack Dynamics:

The rainfall deviation was tragically intensified by rapid glacial thaw. The immediate spring timeframe experienced a record-breaking heat dome throughout the country, where Mercury levels surpassing 50°C in several regions. This intense scorching sped up the rate of thawing of 7,532 glacial bodies in Pakistan's northern mountain regions, situated within the greater Hindu Kush Himalaya HKH territory (ICIMOD, 2022). The scorching furthermore dissolved the temporary snow accumulation swiftly and at elevated heights above average. This process established a two-stage flood mechanism, initially, "glacial lake outburst floods" (GLOFs) originating from vulnerable reservoirs, and secondly, an enormous premature surge of vast amounts of glacial runoff towards the Indus River watershed and its associated tributaries (the Kabul, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej rivers), significantly before rainy-season precipitation reached its maximum. This glacial runoff increases stream levels, substantially diminishing the overall river system's capability to accommodate ensuing precipitation, consequently transforming the rainy season into an aggregated inundation disaster (Najibi & Devineni, 2023).

Diverse Response Patterns and Basin-Wide Flood

The aquatic outcome emerged as disastrous throughout both zones of the Indus River system and minor shoreline catchment areas. The Indus River, the country's main water-conveyance channel, encountered discharges significantly surpassing "high flood" thresholds across several barrages for several weeks. Orbital photographs coupled with hydrological simulations demonstrate that the highest flow rates across southern Sindh surpassed the benchmark of once-per-century recurrence interval, penetrating flood barriers and safeguarding embankments (European Space Agency [ESA], 2022). The submersion remained hardly confined to fluvial inundation. Exceptionally intense regional rainfall, occasionally surpassing 1200mm in several weeks, triggered destructive pluvial inundation in regions having inadequate runoff capacity. Additionally, Indus's enormous flow mass hindered contributing-stream and stormwater originating in eastern regions from discharging towards primary channel, contributing to extensive accumulation of inundation waters which remains over several months throughout Sindh's level landscape, practically generating a landlocked lake (NASA Earth Observatory, 2022).

Geospatial and Temporal Dimensions of Impact

The catastrophe's imprint prove enormous and its evolution unyielding transpiring across different stages over varied regions.

Geographic Distribution and Severity Gradation

The ramifications were observed across the nation yet extremely disproportionate. From geographical standpoint, the catastrophe developed across two principal arenas,

- **The Northern Highlands:** With this region, consequences were triggered by rapid inundations, GLOFs and earth slope failures. Sharp topography intensified the water's devastating power of floodwater demolishing bridges, highways and whole communities in a short time. Administrative areas such as Swat, Dir and Kohistan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) became seriously impacted (NDMA, 2022).
- **The Indus Plains (Punjab and Sindh):** This represented region experiencing devastating submersion. Within Punjab, fluvial inundation besides Chenab and Ravi rivers was most significant. In Sindh, the catastrophe escalated to its devastating magnitude. During September 2022, an approximate 84,000km² of Sindh, more than 50% of its territory

remained submerged with 23 out of 30 administrative divisions officially categorized as “calamity-hit” (Sindh Provincial Disaster Management Authority [PDMA], 2022). The urban center of Dadu became a veritable island, and extensive cultivated flatlands converted into vast bodies of water.

Chronological Progression: From Onset to Peak Impact

The catastrophe advanced across different coinciding phases,

- **Phase 1 (Mid-June – July):** The rainy season arrival, coupled alongside persistent glacial runoff, caused initial inundation across Baluchistan and Northern Pakistan. Preliminary infrastructure destruction along with casualties were documented.
- **Phase 2 (August – Early –September):** The catastrophe intensified into a full-blown nationwide calamity. Intense rainfall in the country’s southern region converged together with maximum river discharges originating from northern regions travelling southward. Significant ruptures happened along critical irrigation structures such as Taunsa and Sukkur. By the end of August, the Indus River was portrayed as “a monster river” exceeding 100km in width across spots (AFP, 2022). The initial week of September signified the geographical climax of flooding.
- **Phase 3 (September – onwards):** The “recession phase”, distinguished by gradual outflow of inundation waters. In Sindh, standing floodwaters lingered across more than 6 months, hindering rebuilding and intensifying public health along with economic challenges.

Regional Disparities in Flood Exposure and Vulnerability

Encounter from inundation actually never correspond equally with catastrophe intensity, prior susceptibilities decided final outcome. While Punjab’s comparatively resilient infrastructure and calamity handling mechanisms reduced a portion of impacts, the most impoverished zones endured heaviest impact. Agrarian Sindh and Baluchistan marked by extreme rates of impoverishment, insufficient residences (typically mud-brick) and inadequate availability to amenities, endured the most severe destruction (World Bank, 2022). The territories additionally possess intricate societal susceptibilities, encompassing women’s disparities and significant communities of propertyless agrarian workforce, which influenced varying capacities to survive and rehabilitate. The inundations consequently functioned as a potent susceptibility intensifier, revealing and aggravating entrenched social and economic inequalities (Mustafa, 2022).

Humanitarian Consequences and Demographic Toll

The population toll from devastating inundations proved astonishing producing significant among the most critical humanitarian catastrophes of the decade.

Mortality, Morbidity and Population Displacement

Official statistics indicate more than 1700 casualties and more than 12,800 injuries (NDMA, 2022). Yet, the actual demographic cost stretches significantly outside instant fatalities. The catastrophe sparked enormous relocation emergency. During the disaster’s climax, approximately 8 million individuals were relocated away from their residences with numerous individuals compelled to look for refuge on raised highways, dikes or congested assistance shelters (International Organization for Migration [IOM], 2022). This widespread uprooted generated critical security dangers, especially for women and girls, minors, the aged and individuals suffering from disabilities, encompassing intensified dangers of patriarchal assault, household splitting and abuse.

Shelter And Habitant Devastation

Residential buildings particularly concerning its most impoverished, was wiped out. An approximate 2.2 million residences ended up impaired or demolished, with more than 800,000

entirely annihilated (NDMA, 2022). In Sindh and Baluchistan, complete communities vanished. The destruction of adequate accommodation stretched beyond structural edifices to associated destruction of private possessions, documentation and communal connections, destroying the essential underpinnings of domestic stability and thrusting countless people into severe deprivation.

Public Health Emergencies and Epidemiological Outcomes

The non-flowing inundation waters generated prolonged community health catastrophe. The tainting of potable reservoirs and simultaneous disintegration of hygiene infrastructure resulted to extensive epidemics of waterborne infections. By end of 2022, the National Institute of Health documented over 580,000 incidents of severe gastrointestinal illness, 1.2 million incidents of malarial infection and 160,000 incidents of dermatological infections in inundation-hit regions (NIH, 2022). Pulmonary illness and dengue virus likewise spiked. The devastation of medical infrastructure, more than 1,460 were affected, paralyzed the infrastructure's capability to react, causing a fatal reinforcing dynamic of infection and insufficient medical attention (WHO, 2022). Malnutrition particularly affecting minors and pregnant females, surged due to nutritional scarcity and inadequate hygiene, additionally undermining immunological mechanisms.

Economical And Infrastructural Devastation

The financial consequences proved severe, negating decades of growth achievements and forcing countless people under the impoverishment line.

Agriculture Sector Collapse and Food System Disruption

Agrarian sector, the corner stone of Pakistan's economy and incomes for approximately 40% of labor force, was ruined. An approximate 4.4 million hectares of agricultural yield were wiped out and more than 1.1 million livestock succumbed, a devastating loss of essential property for impacting agrarian communities (Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO], 2022). Essential agricultural goods like grain, cotton and sugarcane were wiped out in major cultivating areas, resulting to significant forecast GDP in the farming industry of more than 5% of FY2023 (Ministry of Finance, 2022). The damage of impacting cultivated fields planting reserves and arable soil (due to silting and saltwater intrusion) endangered short-term and prolonged nutritional stability, with approximate 14.6 million individuals demanding urgent nutritional aid at the climax of catastrophe (WFP, 2022).

Critical Infrastructure Failure and Service Interruption

The inundations triggered widespread collapse of essential infrastructure:

- **Transport:** More than 13,000 km of highways and 439 overpasses were harmed or demolished disrupting provisions networks and separating populations from commercial hubs and assistance (NDMA, 2022).
- **Energy and Communication:** Extensive destruction to power-line cables, electrical networks and telecommunication installations resulted to extended power outages and disruption of network access, obstructing emergency and recovery operations.
- **Water and Sanitation:** The extensive pollution of 5,500 potable supplies and devastation of hygiene infrastructure established the foundation for community health crises (UNICEF, 2022).

This comprehensive structural collapse converted an environmental threat into a complicated extended relief along with rehabilitation challenge.

Institutional Disruption: Education And Healthcare Systems

The community facilities essential for societal progress was seriously impaired. An approximate 34,000 educational institutions were harmed or demolished, interrupting the learning of 3.5 million students and jeopardizing a potential lasting decline into minor employment and diminished subsequent wages (UNICEF, 2022). The medical infrastructure as mentioned was assailed from several dimensions: structural devastation of infrastructure, destruction of essential machinery and medications and an enormous spike in pressure owing to widespread infection epidemics. This systemic disturbance undermined societal resources along with societal robustness, the consequences of this disruption will experience throughout cohort.

Response Interventions – Multi-Actor Efforts and Effectiveness Assessment

Institutional Architecture of Disaster Response

The magnitude of devastating 2022 Pakistani inundations demanded an intervention of corresponding scale, mobilizing a complicated, multi-layered organizational framework. This framework established by National Disaster Management Act of 2010, consist of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at national apex, Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs), District Disaster Managements Authorities (DDMAs), and a diverse network of global and domestic assistance agencies. Although this structure was developed to support unified catastrophe coordination, the 2022 calamity represented a “pressure assessment” of unmatched intensity, revealing both its functional capabilities and underlying organizational constraints. This section methodically examines the multi-agency intervention throughout the relief (August – December) and first-phase rehabilitation (2023 – onwards) stages. It assesses the effectiveness of initiatives by public-sector and non-governmental organizations, highlights significant deficiencies and execution obstacles, and consolidates important insights for reforming emergency management frameworks in a period of intensifying climate-triggered disasters.

Emergency Phase Operations: August – December 2022

The initial intervention was marked by an enormous, disorganized and originally swamped deployment of assets intended at preserving human life and reducing severe distress.

State – Led Humanitarian Interventions

National disaster management authority coordination mechanisms:

The NDMA as authorized managing agency, launched the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC). It functioned as main link for foreign aid and published everyday status briefings that proved essential for monitoring the catastrophe’s progression. However its functional and monetary capability was rapidly overwhelmed. The NDMA’s yearly allocation for disaster was roughly 2 billion PKR, an amount consumed inside the initial weeks of emergency highlighting a basic disparity between organizational funding and extreme danger (NDMA, 2022; World Bank, 2023). Its function stayed mostly organizational and advisory, and had minimal hands-on execution capability on affected area.

Provincial Implementation and Local Governance Actions

Execution rested substantially on regional agencies, resulting to substantial differences. The Sindh PDMA, confronting the most severe flooding created an extensive assistance shelter system, recording more than 577,000 displaced persons in organized camps. Nevertheless, documentation suggested that countless people remained seeking refuge unofficially on highways sides (Sindh PDMA, 2022). Punjab’s authorities utilized its more effective grassroots management framework to achieve comparatively systematic resource allocation. A substantial difficulty was extensive flooding and devastation of DDMA headquarters and district administrative structures in those

most effected regions cutting this essential frontline connection for requirements analysis and supplies dispersal (UNOCHA, 2022a). This generated communication dark zones in which assistance distribution was irregular or non-existent.

Civil – Military Collaborative Operations

The Pakistan’s military appeared as most responsive and operationally competent governmental institution in the initial reaction. These armed forces dispatched more than 6,500 soldiers, set up 147 assistance shelters, and carried out the majority of searching and rescue (SAR), relocating an approximate 500,000 individuals employing watercraft, choppers and massive vehicles (ISPR, 2022). The National Logistic Cell (NLC), a defense – administered organization, emerged as crucial in conveying humanitarian supplies over impaired roadway systems. Although defense institutions are efficient in swift SAR and supply operations, their engagement in extended relief dispersal prompted worries within various independent organizations concerning impartiality and possible undermining of non-military administration frameworks (ICG, 2022).

International Humanitarian Response Ecosystem

United Nations Flash Appeal Implementation Framework

On August 30, 2022, the UN initiated an emergency appeal for \$160.3 million, subsequently updated to record-breaking \$816 million by January 2023 as complete magnitude of requirements grew evident (UNOCHA, 2022b). The funding request initiated established sectoral coordination framework, including primary areas including WASH, medical, nutrition and accommodation. By December 2022, the WASH sector, co-directed by UNICEF, documented assisting 2.6 million individuals by providing safe drinking water and sanitary supplies, meanwhile the healthcare sector, directed by WHO facilitated the care of more than 4.5 million clinical patients in inundation areas (UNOCHA, 2023). Nevertheless, financing remained a constant limitation the first Flash Appeal stayed substantially short of funds for several months, hindering the necessary expansion of activities.

Bilateral and Multilateral Assistance Channels

Bilateral assistance came by means of both material contributions and monetary donations. Major contributors comprised the United Nations (\$97 million in first-phase of aid), the United Kingdoms (\$26.5 million), China (RMB 400 million in aid) and Saudi Arabia and UAE, which supplied widespread aerial deliveries of humanitarian supplies (USAID, 2022; FCDO, 2022). Multi-state banking organizations reacted with urgent funding the World Bank reallocated \$850 million from current initiatives, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) authorized a \$3 million financial award and a \$475 million loan for immediate rebuilding (World Bank, 2022; ADB, 2022). This “catalytic” financial proved vital for sustaining national financial capacity but was not intended for instant, field level relief intervention.

Non- Governmental Organization Mobilization

An extensive network of more than 100 global and numerous domestic NGOs activated. Large INGOs like International Rescue Committee (IRC), Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF) and Islamic Relief ran travelling medical health centers, provided housing supplies, and offered monetary aid. Local NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) proved to be frequently the initial along with final agencies in remote regions, employing community understanding and credibility. Nevertheless, collaboration among global and domestic agencies was frequently poor, and this influx of additional organizations, generated threats of overlap along with varying practices (ACAPS, 2022).

Recovery and Rehabilitation Phase: Post-2023 Initiatives

Progressing away from emergency assistance to long-term rebuilding turned out extremely problematic considering that prolonged character of lingering inundation water's receding, specifically in Sindh.

Housing Reconstruction and Resettlement Programs

The administration initiated "Owner Driven Reconstruction" (ODR) initiative within Benazir Disaster Assistance program, pledging 400,000 PKR per completely demolished home and 250,000 PKR for partly affected homes. By mid-2023 yet, distribution was sluggish and bogged down in validation obstacles. A Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) calculated shelter segment damages at \$5.6 billion, significantly surpassing designated financing (Govt. of Pakistan, 2023). Numerous relocated households, missing property ownership or formal records were left out from assistance, driving these families into makeshift camps. The absolute magnitude of demand, more than 2 million residences damaged, swamped the execution capability of regional agencies.

Livelihood Restoration and Economic Recovery Measures

The administration and UN organizations emphasized monetary CBI approaches for economic assistance. The World Bank – financed Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project assigned \$100 million for monetary payments to 1.5 million susceptible families. The National Rural Support Programmed (NRSP) and other collaborating agencies provided unrestricted flexible monetary payments to more than 800,000 households (World Bank, 2023). Although financial support offered respect along with adaptability, it was unable to restore destroyed possessions such as farm animals or reconstruct damaged agricultural land. Agrarian rehabilitation was hampered by widespread saturation of countless hectares of land, salt accumulation and the destruction of whole cultivation period, demanding more comprehensive than quick-fix monetary infusions.

Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Service Restoration

A huge structural restoration initiative was launched, targeting transport routes, agricultural water-canal and community infrastructure. The administration designated 116 billion PKR for restoration in 2022-23 growth allocation. The ADB financed the necessary rebuilding of 1500 km of transport routes and 40 bridges in Sindh and Baluchistan (ADB, 2023). Nevertheless, the "build-back-better" guideline was frequently sacrificed by pressing need and financial limitations, resulting to the rebuilding of fragile systems in similar danger-ridden sites. The rehabilitation of 2,000 harmed medical infrastructure and 34,000 educational institutions stayed a prolonged, inadequately financed obstacle (PDNA, 2023).

Social Protection Enhancement and Safety Net Expansion

The disaster resulted to a substantial though short-term expansion of Pakistan's public security framework. The leading Benazir Income Support Programmed (BISP) was utilized to give out 70 billion PKR in urgent finance to 2.7 million established receiver households (BISP, 2023). An additional installment the Flood Relief Cash Assistance, intended to assist extra 1.5 million families. While this illustrated the effectiveness of established electronic disbursement networks for swift expansion, recipient identification stayed a challenge, as countless of "new poor" generated by those inundations were not established databases.

Efficacy Analysis of Response Mechanisms Quantitative Performance Metrics

- **Coverage, Reach And Targeting Accuracy**

Statistical reach was considerable but unequal. By January 2023, aid organizations documented assisting 7.6 million people with nutritional aid and 5.5 million with medical assistance (UNOCHA, 2023). Yet, the PDNA assessed 33 million impacted, revealing a substantial assistant deficit. Targeting was a significant shortcoming. A REACH organization assessment in Sindh revealed that only 58% of families in need reported receiving any form of relief support. This low percentage was attributed to significant omission errors due to inadequate targeting records and access barriers (REACH, 2022).

- **Temporal Efficiency and Response Timeliness**

The intervention was marked by a significant gap. Although military SAR was rapid, the expansion of extensive relief support required 4-6 weeks, overlapping with the climax of medical outbreaks. The lag became ascribed to inundated supply channels, the demand for global organization, and administrative obstacles in tariff processing for assistance supplies (ICG, 2022). The second wave of mortality and morbidity from infectious epidemics happened within this gap interval.

- **Resource Allocation And Utilization Efficiency**

Funding apportionment was strongly tilted towards emergency assistance. Out of the entire \$816 million UN funding request, more than 75% was for nutritional aid, medical care, and WASH, immediate categories. Below 10% was assigned for initial rehabilitation and economic survival, restricting the shift from prolonged relief dependence (UNOCHA Financial Tracking service, 2023). Ineffectiveness was observed in purchasing and supply chain, within numerous independent provision networks, generating duplications.

Qualitative Dimensions and Beneficiary Perspectives

- **Affected Population Satisfaction And Perception**

Public responses gathered by agencies like Ground Truth Solutions uncovered diverse opinions. While assistance was overall received positively, frequent complaints featured an insufficient amount (for instance, one shelter for multiple families), substandard condition of non-edible supplies, and a notable absence of clarity in recipient identification. Numerous stated experiencing helpless and reliant with plans formulated “about us, without us” (Ground Truth Solutions, 2023).

- **Gender-Responsive Implementation Analysis**

The intervention was primarily unable to become sensitive to gender needs. Women and young girls encountered serious barriers in obtaining assistance provided in male-controlled communal areas. The absence of gender-separated sanitation facilities and personal hygiene amenities in shelters elevated threats of sexual assault and abuse (GBV). Women’s particular medical requirements such as child birth and fertility services, were frequently ignored. In spite of protocols, the engagement of females in evaluations, appraisals and shelter coordination groups was negligible (UN Women, 2022).

- **Inclusion Of Marginalized And Vulnerable Populations**

Excluded communities, such as religious minority groups, Afghan exiles, transgender individuals, and propertyless agricultural laborers, are consistently excluded. Assistance allocation is frequently dependent on regional influential figures or landlords for target selection, which solidified current authority structures and bypassed the most impoverished. Individuals with impairments encountered impassable barriers in reaching relief sites and shelters constructed without inclusive design in consideration (Human Rights Watch, 2023).

Response Gap Identification and Implementation Challenges Operational Bottlenecks and Logistic Constraints

The destruction of transportation networks was the main functional obstacle. Impaired crossings and flooded highways made large areas of Sindh and Baluchistan accessible only by boat or helicopter, significantly increasing the cost and difficulty of distribution efforts. The relief organizations encountered serious deficiencies in dual-terrain transports and low-draft watercrafts (WFP Logistics Cluster, 2022).

Coordination Deficiencies and Integration Shortfalls

In spite of the sectoral framework, collaboration was disconnected. The civilian-military interaction, although practically essential, was missing an explicit relief collaboration framework. Data exchange among the state and NGOs was erratic, resulting in overlap in certain regions and deficiencies in the remaining sectors. The “cluster fatigue” occurrence was documented with more than 50 collaborative gatherings weekly in Islamabad, distracting front-line personnel from execution (ALNAP, 2023).

Sustainability Concerns and Long-Term Recovery Uncertainties

The intervention primarily focused on short-term aid rather than sustainable solutions. The Recovery and Reconstruction Framework, which requires approximately \$16.3 billion, remains severely underfunded, with less than 20% of the necessary commitments fulfilled one year after the floods (Govt. of Pakistan, 2023). This financial shortfall risks leaving many individuals in a prolonged state of displacement and vulnerability, undermining the successes of immediate assistance efforts. Additionally, the rehabilitation initiatives have shown minimal alignment with strategies aimed at building environmental resilience, thereby endangering the recovery from previous vulnerabilities.

Structural Analysis – Systemic Vulnerabilities and Policy Deficiencies

Conceptual Framework of Disaster Vulnerabilities

The devastating effect of these 2022 Pakistan inundations must not be ascribed exclusively to an intense climatic-hydrological occurrence. Instead, the catastrophe was the ultimate result of intricate convergence among environmental threats and deeply rooted, underlying structural fragilities. This segment utilizes a fundamental investigative structure to analyze these underlying fragilities, progressing outside the direct occurrence to investigate the ecological, systemic, and socio-political factors which intensified danger and limited efficient intervention. Deriving on recognized catastrophe hazard framework (Wisner et al., 2004; UNISDR, 2009), this analysis asserts that susceptibility is collectively produced, emerging from chronological evolution of growth, administration, and wealth allocation. In the specific Pakistani scenario, this susceptibility reveals itself in deteriorated natural systems, defective administrative frameworks, inadequate administrative execution, and profound class-based disparities. The analysis asserts the 2022 inundations were not a “climatic” catastrophe but a “governance-caused” catastrophe, revealing the accumulated shortcomings of structures seemingly established to control threats and secure adaptive capacity.

Climate Change Context and Environmental Determinants

Pakistan’s Climate Risk Profile and Exposure Assessment

Pakistan is frequently ranked among the top 10 countries most vulnerable to the impacts of global warming, despite contributing less than 1% to global carbon emissions. According to the 2021 Global Climate Risk Index, Pakistan was ranked 8th in terms of severe climate-induced weather events between 2000 and 2009 (Eckstein et al., 2021). The country's vulnerability is multifaceted,

stemming from a heavy reliance on agriculture, which is highly dependent on weather conditions. This sector employs 38% of the labor force and contributes 23% to the national GDP. Additionally, a significant portion of the population lives in areas at risk of flooding along rivers and coastlines, and the nation has a glacial region that is particularly sensitive to rising temperatures. The Indus River Basin, a crucial resource for both water and agriculture in Pakistan, is fed by glaciers that are rapidly melting, making the countries hydrological and food security closely tied to climate stability (ICIMOD, 2023).

Historical Climate Trends and Future Projection Scenarios

Previous records show a noticeable pattern of growing weather unpredictability. Average yearly heat levels in Pakistan have increased around 0.5 °C per decade since the 1960s, two times the worldwide average (PMD, 2022). Rainfall behaviors have altered, growing increasingly unpredictable with an increased occurrence of severe rainstorms. Projected forecasts according to IPCC models are concerning. By 2100, annual heat levels are predicted to increase by 3-5 °C according to a medium greenhouse gas scenario (RCP, 4.5), possibly decreasing wheat production and rice production levels by 8-10% and raising the rate of severe heat waves (World Bank, 2021). Critically, climatic simulations predict an amplification of South Asian rainy season, featuring higher annual precipitation and a higher probability of intense rainfall incidents like the events of 2022 (IPCC AR6, 2022).

Regional Climatic Dynamics and Transboundary Influences

Pakistan's weather pattern is inseparably connected to area along with worldwide phenomenon. The 2022 disaster emphasized the importance of cross-border climatic patterns. The prolonged La Nina phenomenon, a regular climatic phenomenon, created a favorable underlying environment, for intensified rain. Nevertheless, studies reveals that global warming is changing the patterns of these phenomena, possibly raising their occurrence and magnitude (Wang et al., 2023). Additionally, the upper-catchment patterns of the Indus Basin are governed by streamflow and glacial thaw from the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) area, covering several countries. While regulated by the 1960 Indus Water Treaty with India, the agreement has no formal clause for cooperative climatic hazard handling or information exchange pertaining to glacier thaw and intense meteorological prediction, generating a vital information and planning deficiency in Southern Pakistan (Chellaney, 2023).

Systematic Vulnerabilities and Root Causes Examination

Environmental Governance and Management Deficits

- **Land use planning failures and regulatory gaps**

Disorganized municipal growth, along with agrarian intrusion into original riverine plains have served as a major contributor to elevated vulnerability. Large urban centers such as Karachi and Lahore have experienced uncontrolled building in original water flow courses, while agrarian settlements have increasingly moved closer to river shores for agricultural water supply. The National Environmental Quality Standards and regional territorial guidelines are regularly violated owing to inadequate implementation, graft, and governmental favoritism (Hassan, 2022). The destruction of thousands of houses constructed with fragile components in 2022 was the immediate result of these legal breakdowns.

- **Watershed degradation and deforestation patterns**

The watershed areas of major streams, particularly in the highlands of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, face severe issues of deforestation and deterioration of catchment areas. Pakistan has one of the highest rates of deforestation in Asia, with forest coverage estimated at a mere 5.1% (FAO,

2022). The destruction of forest canopies reduces the soil's ability to absorb rainwater, leading to accelerated drainage of topsoil and land degradation. This, in turn, increases silt deposits in rivers and dams, lowering their capacity to mitigate flooding. Destructive agricultural practices and illegal logging, driven by a lack of alternative income sources and ineffective forestry management, contribute to this ongoing cycle of environmental degradation.

- **Urban planning deficiencies and infrastructure standards**

Municipal facilities are mostly insufficient for existing, far less considering forthcoming climatic challenges. Drainage networks in the majority of urban centers are obsolete, inadequate, and insufficiently serviced, resulting to rapid pluvial inundation throughout intense rainfall. Construction regulations, even when they are established, are infrequently implemented, especially in unregulated communities accommodating a substantial segment of the metropolitan impoverished. Essential networks, highways, bridges and energy infrastructure is typically developed to previous climatic benchmarks lacking accounting for their projected environmental predictions, making it prone to collapse. The 2022 inundations impaired over 13,000 km of highways and 439 bridges, many of being not engineered for the immense hydrological volumes they encountered (PDNA, 2023).

Institutional And Governance Architecture Flaws

- **Policy-implementation disconnect and execution gaps**

Pakistan holds a comparatively comprehensive collection of policies on documentation, such as the National Climate Change Policy (2012, revised 2021), the National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Policy (2022) and provincial climate change policies. Nevertheless, an enduring disconnect remains between strategy development and execution. These strategies frequently miss practical execution mechanisms, explicit financial designations and compulsory adherence procedures. They are often regarded as suggestive instead of enforceable, resulting in a mindset of non-compliance where duties are scattered and liability is missing (Khan, 2021).

- **Inter-agency coordination and communication breakdowns**

Calamity along with environmental administration is divided throughout multiple governmental and local agencies (Climate Change, Water Resources, NDMA, PDMA, Planning commissions) with concurrent responsibilities and inadequate collaborative procedures. The 2022 effort revealed persistent information failures: advance alerts from PMD were not efficiently transformed into effective community-level relocation directives by regional authorities. Data compartments among sectoral agencies, hampering comprehensive strategizing. This systemic division hinders a comprehensive “whole of government” strategy to threat reduction.

- **Subnational Governance capacity constraints**

While the 2010, 18th amendment shifted substantial authority, encompassing ecological affairs and catastrophe governance to regional governments, it did not consistently allocate equivalent specialized and monetary capability. District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) are frequently lacking personnel, financially constrained and managed by non-specialist administration without technical emergency response skills. Throughout these inundations, many DDMA headquarters even become flooded, emphasizing their structural and functional fragility. This paralyzed the critically essential echelon of administration for frontline advance notification demand evaluation, along with aid management (Mustafa et al. 2021).

Policy Framework Evaluation and Implementation Assessment Disaster Risk Reduction Policy Regime Analysis

• National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2022 Examination

The DRR policy 2022, adopted merely a month prior to floods represent an exhaustive framework harmonized with the Sendai Framework. It highlights threat-conscious progress, ecological resilience-building, and public adaptive capacity. Nevertheless, the policy's enactment implied the policy remained entirely abstract throughout the 2022 calamity. A vital shortfall is the policy's predominant emphasis on after-the-calamity intervention and rebuilding, proactive threat reduction and containment. This framework additionally neglects to appropriately tackle the governmental dynamics of territorial development and the requirement for applicable territorial laws (NDMA, 2022).

• Implementation Status And Institutional Compliance

A year following its approval and the catastrophic calamity, execution stays developing. Important frameworks, including Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies and Local Resilience Plans have not been implemented. Adherence is discretionary for sectoral departments and regional agencies, with lacking efficient tracking and assessment framework to monitor implementation. The National Disaster Management Commission, the top strategic authority headed by the Prime Minister, has seldom assembled and has not effectively promoted the framework's conversion into practical initiatives (Khan & Ali, 2023).

• Resource Allocation and Budgetary Adequacy

The strongest revealing measures of governmental dedication are financial distribution. Regardless of the critical risk DRR and climate resilience-building are drastically lacking funds. The national Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) normally designates under 1% of its funds to climate-focused initiatives, which are frequently the first to be reduced in times of financial restrictions (Ministry of Finance, 2022). The NDMA's functional allocation is insignificant in comparison to the enormous magnitude of potential threat, assuring it can exclusively operate as a responsive instead of a preventive agency.

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Framework

• Climate Change Act 217 Implementation Analysis

The Climate Change Act 2017 created the Pakistan Climate Change Council and Climate Change Authority. Yet, the institution has not become completely established and is continuously ineffective, deficient in essential legislative and budgetary capacity to implement inter-departmental climate initiatives. The statute's mechanism for a Climate Change Fund has experienced insignificant funding, depending upon unpredictable international donations instead of reliable national resources (Abubakar, 2022).

• Nationally Determined Contributions Progress Tracking

Pakistan's revised NDC (2021) commits a contingent 50% decrease in predicted pollution by 2030, dependent on global assistance. Its resilience-building targets comprise establishing climate-robust, agrarian systems and water-conserving infrastructure. Nevertheless, advancement monitoring is unclear. There is no comprehensive, available mechanism for citizens to track NDC execution throughout industries. The majority of reduction initiatives concentrate on forestation (the 10billion tree tsunami) and certain sustainable energy schemes, while essential areas like transport and manufacturing experience insignificant fundamental change (Climate Transparency, 2022).

- **Adaptation Planning and Execution Effectiveness**

Resilience-building strategy is an initiative-focused and externally funded instead of comprehensive. Projects are frequently limited experimental initiatives (such as, climate-resilient farming in several settlements) that are unable to expand effectively. There is negligible embedding of climatic hazard into the fundamental development mechanism of important commercial fields such as hydrological governance, agrarian development, and municipal expansion. The 2022 calamity revealed that long periods of improvised resilience initiatives did almost nothing to defend the nation from a comprehensive disaster (World Bank, 2023).

International Commitment Alignment and Compliance

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction Implementation

Pakistan's DRR strategy is explicitly harmonized with the Sendai Framework's objectives. Nevertheless, implementation of its central objectives is inadequate. Comprehending calamity threat (Priority 1) is hindered due to information deficiencies, especially at grassroots administration. Enhancing calamity threat administration (Priority 2) is compromised by organization disintegration. Allocating funds in DRR (Priority 3) remains extremely inadequate. Improving calamity anticipation (Priority 4) was demonstrated as insufficient in 2022. Pakistan's self-reported federal documentation to the UN on Sendai emphasizes initiatives, not achievements or lowering in threat (UNDRR, 2023).

Paris Agreement Commitments and National Alignment

As stated, Pakistan's NDC is aspirational but execution is deficient. The state's policy structures recognize the Paris Agreement, but domestic growth frameworks, especially the 5 year plans and PSDP, fail to consistently incorporate climatic targets. Industrial expansion paradigms stay based on high-emission trajectories with huge fresh funding in coal-burning electricity stations under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) openly conflicting with reduction commitments and entrenching in significant carbon release for long periods (Malik, 2022).

Sustainable Development Goals Integration and Progress

The devastating inundations triggered significant impediments across numerous SDGs: Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), Goal 3 (Good Health), Goal 6 (Clean Water), and Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities). Pakistan's SDG structure, the "National Initiative for SDGs," is missing a robust climatic adaptive capacity perspective. Implementation was previously behind schedule prior to 2022: the calamity has now rolled back achievements, forcing an estimated 9 million people in state of impoverishment and critically undermining nutritional stability (UNDP, 2023). This highlights the basic interconnection of adaptation initiatives (SDG 13) and enduring advancement.

Structural Barriers to Effective Disaster Risk Management

Financial And Resource Allocation Constraints

Pakistan encounters a deep-rooted economic predicament with substantial liabilities settlement, constraining national capital allocation in adaptive capacity. Climatic and DRR resource allocation is regarded as deferred, future-oriented outlay, being outcompeted by pressing governmental and economic demands. Access to global adaptation investment (Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund) is hampered by inadequate initiative formulation capabilities and complicated endorsement requirements.

Technical Capacity and Expertise Limitations

There exists a critical scarcity of technical expert proficiency in hydrological studies, meteorological simulation, threat analysis, and durable facilities planning throughout public-sector

ministries. Research establishments generate insufficient studies customized to domestic DRR needs. This skill deficiency contributes to an unhealthy dependence on foreign advisors for strategy development, eroding autonomy along with lasting impact.

Political Economy Factors and Governance Challenges

Climatic threat mitigation is, in political terms, unappealing; it entails constraining influential stakeholders (e.g., property builders, agrarian lobbies), undertaking extended expenditures with no instant apparent benefits, and directing insufficient funds to proactive initiatives. Short governmental periods encourage expenditure on noticeable responsive assistance rather than unnoticed preventive mitigation. Malfeasance and powerful control additionally skew financial distribution and implementation of rules (Khan, 2022).

Socioeconomic Inequalities and Vulnerability Amplification

Fundamentally, fragility is allocated according to social and economic categories. Impoverishment limits coping capability: the underprivileged reside in the most dangerous areas (inundation zones, sheer hillsides) in extremely fragile homes and are reliant on climate-vulnerable occupations. Patriarchal disparity intensifies this vulnerability, as females frequently command diminished assets, restricted movement, and reduced leadership influence to get ready for or rebound from disasters. The 2022 inundations unequally affected the most impoverished regions (Sindh, Baluchistan) and the impoverished populations inside those regions, showing the way calamities perpetuate and exacerbate prior disparities (Jacobs et al., 2023).

Way Forward – Strategic Reforms for Resilience Building

Principles for Transformative Change and Sustainable Resilience

The prior evaluation has demonstrated that Pakistan's susceptibility to climate catastrophe is system-wide, entrenched in administrative frameworks, financial paradigms and progress trajectories. Therefore, gradual modifications to current frameworks are inadequate. This section presents a future-oriented structure for fundamental adaptive capacity construction, directed by four central guidelines: **Integration** (dismantling ministerial divisions) **Inclusion** (prioritizing the needs of extremely marginalized) **Foresight** (preparing for projected climatic projections, rather than historical threats) and **Accountability** (securing accountable execution). This objective is not just simply to rehabilitate from the 2022 inundations but to radically redesign Pakistan's interaction with its climatic and its progress path, moving away from responsive catastrophe handling to preventative comprehensive threat mitigation. This demands progressing further than initiatives and towards a novel administrative framework.

Diagnostic Synthesis: Analyzing Intervention Failure Patterns

Historical Policy Implementation Analysis

Pakistan's record is filled with well-developed but inadequately executed strategies. The National Climate Change Policy (2012), the National Water Policy (2018) and the DRR policy (2022) each experience from an identical phenomenon: absence of formal compulsory execution mechanisms, vague allocation of official duties and above all crucial detachment from financial timelines and governmental preferences. These policies persist declarations of conveying aspiration instead of the mechanism of execution. Appraisals indicate that more than 70% of climatic initiatives in the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) encounter considerable setbacks or are unable to achieve these projects' targets owing to organizational obstacles and financial diversions (Planning Commission, 2022).

Institutional And Governance Structural Limitations

As outlined in the preceding section, the organizational structure is splintered. The Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) has relatively insufficient authority compared to influential departmental agencies (Water, Agriculture, Energy). The NDMA is organized for relief not for threat mitigation. Regional authorities are missing specialized capability. This division generates responsibility voids. The 2022 inundations showed that not a single individual organization possessed the mandate or capability to implement territorial regulation in inundation zones or to require climate-adapted structural specifications across the country (World Bank CCDR, 2023).

Systemic and Cross-Sectoral Constraint Identification

The most profound limitations are intersecting. Initially, a governmental dynamics limitations: influential groups (property, agrarian interest groups) gain by maintaining the existing situation of invaded inundation zones and non-viable aquatic consumption. Secondly, a financial limitation, persistent financial shortfalls, and borrowing repayment, push aside extended adaptive capacity expenditures. Thirdly, an understanding limitation: strategy is not adequately guided by detailed community-level climatic threat statistics or thorough economic assessments of resilience alternatives. These structural impediments guarantee that soundly crafted initiatives stumble at the critical execution phase.

Strategic Framework for Enhanced Climate Resilience

Vision Statement and Guiding Principles

Aspiration: By the year 2035, Pakistan is expected to be a truly climate – adapted country in which populations, natural habitats, and the economic system can endure, adjust to, and rehabilitate from environmental disturbance and pressures, securing enduring growth and public justice for all citizens.

Steering Guidelines: 1) **Risk – Informed Progress:** Every public-sector and significant commercial expenditure shall undergo an obligatory climate threat evaluation. 2) **Proximity Principle:** Establish adaptive capacity starting from the grassroots, ascending, enabling community authorities. 3) **Pro – ecosystem:** Environmental rehabilitation as a vital asset. 4) **Fair Transformation:** Guarantee the expenses and advantages of adaptive measures are fairly allocated.

Overarching Goals and Specific Aims

Goal 1: Decrease the number of communities and economic resources to climate threats by approximately 40% by 2030.

- Target 1.1: Uphold and execute territorial strategies reliant on current inundation and threat charts for all large municipalities and fluvial catchments.
- Target 1.2: Transfer or reinforce 50% of essential facilities in vulnerable regions.

Goal 2: Reinforce coping capability and welfare security for the extremely marginalized 20% of the communities.

- Target 2.1: Incorporate environmental susceptibility indicators into the BISP allocation system.
- Target 2.2: Secure 100% of forthcoming public dwellings to satisfy climate-adapted specifications.

Implementation Pathway

The concept of transformation asserts that if Pakistan

- a) Creates an influential overseeing agency with compliance authority

- b) Consistently incorporates climatic threat into every departmental strategy and financial planning
- c) Mobilizes government and corporate funding for adaptive capacity

Then the country would generate a supportive setting that encourages threat – mitigating practices at every tiers culminating in decreased calamity damages and enduring progress. The trajectory transitions from organizational and legislative overhaul (Years 0-2) to substantial expenditure in constructed and ecological assets (Year 2-5) to an established framework of threat administration and perpetual resilience – building (Year 5+).

Policy And Institutional Reform Recommendations

Governance Framework and Systemic Configuration

- **Proposed National Climate Resilience Authority (NCRA) Structure**

Substitute the consultative Pakistan Climate Change Council with a legislated National Climate Resilience Authority (NCRA) constituted through legislation of the National Body. Based on effective bodies such as the Philippine Climate Change Commission, the NCRA ought to be

- Empowered: Possess the legislative authority to evaluate and reject government initiatives that are unable to meet environmental adaptive criteria.
- Resourced: Financed by a predetermined proportion (such as, 1% of national PSDP and regional ADP).
- Accountable: Led by a permanent director with an expert panel, accountable straight to the National Assembly (Ahmed, 2023).

- **Integrated Disaster Risk Management System Design**

Change the NDMA from being a relief agency to a Risk Reduction Authority. Its authority ought to be extended to encompass:

- a) Curating a country wide multiple-threat database
- b) Performing compulsory five year threat appraisals for each locality
- c) Validating regional and local calamity mitigation framework

The “disaster management” role ought to be properly delegated to regional governments with NDMA concentrating toward supervision, guidelines and danger data (UNDRR, 2022).

- **Enhanced Federal-Provincial Coordination Mechanism**

Create a National Inter-Ministerial Climate Committee (NIMCC) presided over the PM/CM supported by NCRA as its administrative office. This council must convene on a quarterly basis to address cross-regional and inter-agency disputes on water-resources, territorial allocation, and construction initiatives. This is considered vital for executing the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) functions with forward looking climatic perspective.

Legal And Regulatory Framework Enhancement

- **Climate Justice And Compensation Legislation**

Establish a Climate-Induced Displacement and Rehabilitation Act to safeguard the entitlements of climate refugees. This legislation must ensure:

- a) The protection of rehabilitation with decency
- b) Reparation for destroyed possessions
- c) Formal security prohibiting involuntary ousting, lacking appropriate replacement accommodation.

This takes inspiration from concepts from Bangladesh’s National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management (Huq & De Souza, 2023).

- **Strengthened Environmental Protection Regime**

Modify the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (1997) to:

- a) Enforce Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) covering all major field-specific frameworks (agriculture, transport, and power)
- b) Establish strict sanctions for unlawful forest clearing and catchment intrusion, with funds allocated to an exclusive “Green Resilience Fund”.

- **Modernized Construction Regulations And Zoning Regulations**

The NCRA in partnership with the Pakistan Engineering Council, shall publish Mandatory Climate-Resilient Building Codes. These must encompass specifications for inundation-resistant footings, cyclone-resistant roofs and thermal-reducing components. Concurrently, regional governments shall establish and implement Hazard-Specific Zoning Regulations that forbid additional housing construction in extreme-risk inundation (Highest threat areas), permitting exclusively adaptive cultivation or swamps rehabilitation.

Technical and Operational Resilience Solutions

Improved Prior Notification and Forecasting Systems

- **Technology and Modernization Initiatives**

Allocate funds in the Advanced Hydrometeorological Network featuring Doppler Radar atmospheric detection systems, self-operating climatic measurement sites and fluvial monitors integrated to instantaneous statistics aggregation network. Collaborate with area-based organizations such as the South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF) and utilize U’s Copernicus initiative for enhanced periodic projections. The 2022 inundations demonstrated a significant deficiency in predicting extreme local rain; tackling this issue demands high-definition simulation capability (PMD & WMO, 2023).

- **Community-Based Early Warning System Development**

Enhance advanced technological networks with non-technological community-oriented Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs). Educate community workers in every Union Council to comprehend authorized alerts, undertake grassroots threat surveying, and handle frontline communication through mosque speakers, grassroots wireless communication, and wireless handset connections. This framework has been demonstrated to be efficient in inundation-vulnerable areas of Bangladesh and the Philippines (IFRC, 2022).

- **Information Dissemination and Communication Strategies**

Formulate a National Common Alerting Protocol (CAP). Every advisory communication issued by PMD, NDMA, and irrigation authorities shall become harmonized and communicated by means of a unified publicly accessible online portal (such as a public-sector app) and connected with telecommunication operators to enable directed SMS broadcasts to mobile phones in particular geographical zones.

Infrastructure Resilience Enhancement Measures

- **Climate-Resilient Planning Standards and Specifications**

Implement a “Build Back Better” standard for all post-catastrophe rehabilitation. This implies that highways shall be raised or constructed with sufficient drainage channels, overpasses shall endure greater hydraulic forces, and energy distribution points need to be shifted beyond inundation zones. The ADB and World Bank must mandate compliance with such norms as a prerequisite for all future rehabilitation monetary support.

- **Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) and Ecological Engineering**

Launch a National River and Floodplain Restoration Program. Main activities feature:

- a) Afforesting 500,000 hectares of land in the watersheds of principal waterways to decrease water flow and mud deposition
- b) Identifying and rehabilitating “Spill Zones” beside the Indus River, regulated zones in which inundation waters may be securely redirected to defend large municipal hubs, providing recompense to impacted agricultural workers
- c) Restoring coastal forest throughout the coastal Indus region as a natural protection, mitigating severe weather flood events (IUCN, 2023).

- **Critical Infrastructure Protection and Redundancy Planning**

Perform climatic pressure evaluations for all essential facilities (power, networks, communication networks, clinics, and important roads). Grounded on the outcomes, create backup strategies. To illustrate, establish a grid of solar energy localized energy systems to secure healthcare institutions that are occupied with auxiliary electricity, and develop substitute transportation pathways for critical provision routes.

Financial and Economic Resilience Strategies

Climate Finance Mobilization and Allocation

- **Domestic Resource Mobilization and Budgetary Prioritization**

- **Climatic Resilience Fund:** Ensure that at least of 5% of national and regional progress allocations are assigned to climatic resilience-building and DRR, monitored through a Climate Budget Tagging mechanism.
- **Green Bonds:** Launch national and local government sustainable securities, particularly for funding NbS and climate-proof facilities initiatives, with external auditing.

- **International Climate Finance Access and Utilization**

Create a Project Preparation Facility (PPF) inside the NCRA to formulate fundable initiative applications for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund. Pakistan has reportedly secured less than 2% of accessible GCF funds owing to low-quality application caliber. The PPF would offer expert support to sectoral agencies and regional governments to manage complicated finance stipulations (GCF, 2023).

- **Innovative Financing Instruments and Risk Transfer Mechanisms**

- **Catastrophe Bonds:** Collaborate with the World Bank to launch index-based CAT securities that deliver instant payments following the activation of a pre-determined incident (such as rain surpassing 400mm in Sindh within 72 hours).
- **Climate Risk Insurance:** Expand initiatives such as the Crop Climate Insurance Program to include all subsistence cultivators, with subscription fees supported for the most impoverished.

Economic Transformation and Diversification Approaches

- **Climate-Smart Agricultural Systems and Practices**

Transfer financial support away from water-demanding wheat and rice crops to arid-condition and inundation-tolerant varieties (such as millets, sorghum, and quinoa). Encourage accurate crop hydration through specific monetary assistance and expert guidance. Establish stacked crop production and regulated cultivation trial areas in municipal edges to separate agricultural generation from weather unpredictability.

- **Green Employment Generation and Financial Diversification**

Initiate a National Resilience Workforce Program to educate and hire young people in NbS (tree protectors, mangrove tree cultivators), durable erection, and advance notification mechanism servicing. This generates employment while constructing federal resources. Encourage climate-

adapted travel (ecological tourism in northerly uplands, heritage exploration) as a broadening approach.

- **Enhance Social Protection Systems and Safety Nets**

Reorient BISP into a crisis-adapted welfare support framework. Connect it with climatic advance advisories to activate pre-emptive monetary payments prior to projected calamity, allowing households to purchase supplies, safeguard property, and relocate. This “forecast-based financing” approach has demonstrated a decrease in crisis aid expenses of around 50% (WFP, 2022).

Capacity Building and Knowledge Development Initiatives

Institutional Capacity Enhancement Program

Create a National Resilience Academy to deliver certification modules for public officials, technical experts, and strategists on environmental threat evaluation and adaptive municipal development. Require that all appropriate official employees undertake an introductory training segment within two years.

Community Resilience Building and Local Empowerment

Formalize Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (PVCAs) as the essential stage for community growth strategies. Provide consolidated monetary allocation to Union Councils for executing grass-roots focused preparedness initiatives determined by PVCAs, like constructing crises refugees or improving community water infrastructure.

Research Innovation and Technology Adaptation Strategies

Create Excellence institutes in Climate Resilience inside premier Pakistani research universities, concentrating on practical investigation in domains such as cryosphere water resources, salt-adapted varieties, and affordable inundation-proof residential resources. Create a public-private Climate Innovation Challenge Fund to trial and expand domestically invented innovations.

Implementation Roadmap and Phased Execution Plan

Immediate Priority Actions (0-12 Month Horizon)

- Legislate a law to set up the National Climate Resilience Authority (NCRA).
- Initiate a country-wide threat charting initiative to revise inundation areas utilizing 2022 findings.
- Commence the development of the initial national calamity security.
- Publish compulsory “Build Back Better” norms for every existing rehabilitation.

Short-term strategic initiatives (1–3-year timeline)

- Activate the NCRA and the climate resilience fund.
- Finalize implementation of updated land-use rules in 10 extremely susceptible localities.
- Implement crisis-adapted functions in the BISP initiative throughout the country.
- Create the Project Preparation Facility and obtain maiden substantial GCF funding.

Medium-Term Programmatic Interventions (3-5 year Framework)

- Attain 50% completion of essential facilities or repositioning.
- Rehabilitate 250,000 hectares of woodland and mangrove tree coverage.
- Thoroughly incorporate climatic threat evaluation into official contracting.
- Create a developed national industry for climatic threat indemnity.

Long Term Transformational Agenda (5-10 Years vision)

- Achieve a thoroughly comprehensive computerized climatic threat administration framework.

- Attain financial expansion such that under 15% of GDP is from the climate-sensitive agrarian sector.
- Build Pakistan as a South Asian expertise center for fluvial catchment administration and cryosphere threat evaluation.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability Framework Performance Indicators and Progress Metrics

Shift immediate results metrics (such as, ‘quantity of plants established’) to result and effect metrics.

- **Reduction in Risk:** Proportion reduction in people residing in high-risk areas.
- **Enhanced resilience:** Decrease in the typical rehabilitation period following a significant disaster.
- **Effectiveness Rise:** Growth in proportion of calamity-linked expenditure assigned to preventative threat mitigation compared to post-event intervention.

Reporting Mechanism and Verification Protocols

The NCRA should release the per annum State of Climate Resilience Report submitted to the National Assembly. All initiatives funded through the Climate Resilience Fund or global adaptation funding must undergo external inspections. An open online portal should monitor critical adaptation expenditure and achievements in real-time.

Stakeholder Engagement and Participatory Oversight

Create regional and local Climate Resilience Councils featuring compulsory participation from gender organizations, agricultural groups, NGOs, and research bodies to offer supervision and advice on strategy execution.

Conclusion

The 2022 monsoon floods in Pakistan were a significant disaster in the context of climate change. These floods affected one-third of the country, displacing millions of people and causing an estimated \$30 billion in damages. This study reaches a sobering conclusion: the extent of the fatalities, destruction, and hardships faced was not solely due to natural causes; rather, it resulted from a long-developing human-made catastrophe. While global warming intensified rainfall and accelerated glacial melting, the devastating consequences stemmed directly from the structural weaknesses present in Pakistan's ecological management, infrastructure, and socio-economic framework.

Deforestation, unregulated encroachments on river basins, and erosion of critical catchment areas have stripped the land of its natural protections. The fragmented disaster mitigation system lacks resources and suffers from a disconnect between planning and implementation, resulting in inadequate responses. Systemic inequalities in land ownership and resource access have left the poorest communities most affected by flooding, underscoring the impact of power imbalances. The chaotic emergency response to the 2022 floods in Pakistan has highlighted the need for a complete reform of the nation's climate strategy. Short-term fixes are insufficient; we must address the root causes of vulnerability by establishing a well-funded climate adaptation agency and reallocating resources to support sustainable infrastructure for at-risk populations. As a minor contributor to global emissions, Pakistan faces a significant threat due to climate change, and developed nations have an ethical responsibility to assist through debt restructuring, grants, and technical aid. The floods displaced millions and caused about \$30 billion in damages, revealing that the devastation was not just a natural disaster but a result of long-standing human-made issues.

Structural weaknesses in ecological management and socio-economic frameworks, combined with deep-rooted inequalities, left the most vulnerable communities to bear the brunt of the crisis. The emergency response focused on immediate relief rather than long-term solutions, underscoring the need for a transformative approach. To build resilience, we must shift resources from reactive responses to proactive funding for sustainable development and diverse livelihoods. This poses a significant challenge for both the state and global climate ethics. As a minor contributor to emissions, Pakistan faces threats it did not create, making it essential for developed nations to support its transformation through debt restructuring, grants, and technical assistance. The impacts of the 2022 floods will last for years, highlighting the need for a new societal agreement based on fairness and resilience to prevent future disasters.

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