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**Essay:**

## **Climate Crisis: A Wake-up call.**

"The sky turned crimson as crops withered into dust; and rivers whispered their final flow. In a quiet village, a child asked why rain had forgotten them. No one had an answer - only the silence of a planet crying for help."

The climate crisis is no longer a distant threat - it is a daily reality reshaping lives across continents. From deadly heatwaves in Pakistan to record-breaking wild fires in Canada and floods in Europe, the Earth is signaling alarm. This crisis transcends geography and politics, demanding urgent, unified global action. Scientific consensus confirms human-driven emissions as the primary cause, and yet political inertia persists.

Developing nations, despite contributing the least, suffer the most. The climate emergency is not just about rising temperatures; it's about collapsing systems - agriculture, health, economies and security.

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The rising frequency of heatwaves across Pakistan paints a dire picture. The World Health Organization (May 2025) reports over 700 deaths due to temperatures exceeding  $48^{\circ}\text{C}$  across Pakistan.

As climate change worsens, vulnerable groups, especially in urban slums, face serious health threats. Similarly, The United Nations Environment Programme (2025) warned that Pakistan is among the top 10 countries facing lethal heat stress due to global warming. These warnings reveal the growing urgency of climate-focused health measures.

Moving forward, Pakistan's glaciers are melting faster than expected, raising fears for long-term water shortages.

The United Nations Development

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Programme (2025) warn 36% of Pakistan's glaciers are retreating, threatening long-term water supply. As snow lines rise, farmers are already facing irrigation challenges. The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (2024) reported that Pakistan's Indus Basin glaciers could shrink by 50% by 2050 if warming trends persist. This glacial retreat will hit rural livelihoods and food security hard in coming decades.

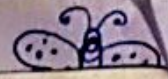
In addition to heat and water loss, erratic monsoons and floods have become more damaging each year. The World Meteorological Organization (2024) states Pakistan faced 3 major floods in 2024, displacing over 1.2 million people. Such floods

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not only destroy homes but also disrupt school and hospital services. Along with that The National Disaster Management Authority (2025) data also shows flood-affected areas rose by 17% compared to the previous five-year average. These facts confirm that monsoon unpredictability is no longer seasonal - it is structural.

As a result of these disasters, agriculture has become one of the most affected sectors, risking mass hunger. The Food And agriculture organization (2025) confirms 23% crop loss due to extreme weather in Punjab and Sindh. With crops failing, food prices spike, hitting the poor hardest. The World Bank (2025) warned that food insecurity in



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Pakistan may double by 2030 due to climate-driven crop failures. Such developments demand urgent reform in farming techniques and crop insurance schemes.

In response to these challenges Pakistan has revised its climate policies for more resilience. The ministry of climate change (2024) launched a revised national climate policy focused on resilience and green energy.

These reforms prioritize both prevention and adaptation.

The Asian Development Bank (2025) praised Pakistan's updated climate policy for integrating nature-based solutions and gender inclusion.

However, implementation gaps and poor local coordination still remain significant hurdles.



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one <sup>Positive</sup> ~~opposite~~ example of national response is the tree plantation <sup>(campaign)</sup> drive launched across provinces. The World Wildlife Fund (2025) praised Pakistan's plantation of 1.7 billion trees, reducing carbon footprint. These trees help absorb emissions and restore biodiversity. The

International Union for conservation of Nature (2024) acknowledged the project's success in restoring over 600,000 hectares

of degraded forest land. Yet, critics urge ensuring trees survival and community ownership for long-term benefits.

Additionally, local preparedness is improving, though progress is uneven across provinces. The National Disaster Management Authority (2024) conducted mock drills in 12 flood-prone districts to

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enhance local preparedness.

These drills help communities react quickly to early warnings.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (2025)

highlighted Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's increased readiness in climate risk

mapping. Still, budget constraints

and outdated equipments

slow broader reforms.

Moreover, fiscal planning is becoming more climate-aware in national budgeting. The International Monetary Fund (March 2025) noted Pakistan allocated PKR 400 billion to green projects in its fiscal plan. These funds go toward renewable energy, clean water, and disaster infrastructure.

The World Economic Forum

2024 ranked Pakistan among the top 5 low-income nations

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practicing climate-responsive budgeting. However, transparency and local-level disbursement remain key issues to address.

Apart from domestic efforts, Pakistan has benefited from international climate financing. The Green Climate Fund (2025) approved \$150 million for Pakistan's adaptation and early warning systems. These funds help in building resilience where local budgets fall short. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2024) recognized Pakistan as a priority country for climate finance under Loss and Damage Fund.

International trust, however, depends on visible results and policy consistency.

Some foreign-funded projects have changed lives

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directly, like solar electrification in rural villages. The United Nations Development programme (2025) helped electrify 800 rural communities via solar microgrids in Balochistan. This brings energy to places never connected before. The International Renewable Energy Agency (2024) reported that solar adoption in these areas reduced diesel dependence by 43%. These figures show that clean energy can reach even Pakistan's most remote corners with the right partnerships.

Similarly, disaster risk cooperation with Japan has improved early warning systems. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (2024) partnered with NDMA ( ) for early flood detection

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systems across southern Punjab. These efforts help reduce damage before floods strike. The Japan Meteorological Agency (2025) supplied 120 real-time monitoring units for Pakistan's early warning network. These systems are life-saving, but require regular maintenance and training to operate effectively.

Water management has also improved in collaboration with internal donors. The United States Agency for International Development (2025) invested \$40 million in sustainable irrigation and groundwater protection in Sindh. Farmers are now better equipped to conserve water. The International Water Management Institute (2025) observed a 29% increase in water efficiency in

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USAID - assisted agricultural Zones. These changes reduce stress on overused water resources and boost crop productivity.

Another urgent need is a national shift toward clean energy. The International Energy Agency (2024) urges Pakistan to adopt solar and wind to cut emissions by 60% by 2030. Fossil fuel use continues to pollute cities and harm public health. The World Bank (2025) reported a 17% rise in renewable energy capacity in Pakistan due to wind and hydropower investments. With consistent effort, the country can meet its global emissions ~~targets~~ targets.

Urban planning also

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requires urgent reform, as unplanned settlements remain flood-prone. The UN Habitat (2025) notes 85% of flood damage in 2024 hit unregulated housing areas. Building codes and drainage must be updated quickly. The Asian Development Bank (2025) pledged \$90 million for climate-resilient urban infrastructure in Karachi and Peshawar. These investments aim to reduce disaster risks in Pakistan's most vulnerable cities.

However, financing such wide reforms requires more global support for vulnerable countries. The World Bank (2025) reports Pakistan needs \$348 billion by 2035 for climate adaptation. Such sums cannot be generated domestically alone.