

DATE: ___/___/___

Disaster Management in Pakistan: Challenges and Way Forward

Outline:

1- Introduction

Disaster management in Pakistan is facing challenges in administrative, technological and financial sphere. In order to function properly, practical measures are needed.

2- An overview of Disaster Management in Pakistan

3- Challenges in Disaster Management in Pakistan

3.1 Lack of political will in management of disasters
Case in point: Carelessness of KPK government in 2025-floods

3.2 Illegal housing societies and hotels in floodplains and riverbeds.

Case in point: RAVI Housing Society and hotels in Gilgit.

DATE: ___/___/___

3.3 Unavailability of funds
to District Disaster
Management Authority for
emergency response

3.4 Rampant corruption in
Disaster Management Agency
Case in point: Report of Auditor General

3.5 Insufficient data collection
of affected people for
rehabilitation purposes

3.6 Lack of modern technology
and trained staff in
remote areas and villages

3.7 Disagreement between
center and province as
disaster management is
provincial subject after
18th Amendment

Case in point: Federal vs
Sindh

3.8 Shortage of infrastructure in
rehabilitation camps to
accommodate masses

Case in point: Mismanagement
in Alipur, Punjab

DATE: ___/___/___

4- Disaster Management in Pakistan is facing Challenges: A case study

4.1 Floods in 2022 and 2025

4.2 Cloudbursts and torrential rains in KPK

5- Way Forwards to Overcome Challenges of Disaster Management in Pakistan

5.1 Transfer of funds at grass root level

5.2 Ensure accountability and transparency of National Disaster Management Agency

5.3 Digitalization of records of affected people and infrastructure

5.4 Training of staff upto mark

5.5 Allocation of sufficient budget to National Disaster Management Agency

5.6 Transfer of modern technology and installment of early warning system to remote areas

6- Conclusion

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

Many monsoon back, there was an old woman who had pouch on stick. In her pouch, she had pairs of glasses, keys and a whistle. She knew that in case of emergency, she could walk outside with the help of stick, call for help by whistle and lock her home with keys. She had her home away from path of flood and had a large trunk, in which important pension papers were present, placed many feet above the ground. She survived many monsoons because she knew that prevention is better than cure. Pakistan is a country which is located at a place on globe which bears the brunt of two major weather systems. One comes with high temperature and other comes with monsoon rains. The agency that responds to extreme weather systems in term of disasters in Pakistan is National Disaster

DATE: ___/___/___

Management Agency. This authoritative agency is facing certain challenges in order to perform its functions such as lack of political will in management of disasters, illegal housing societies and hotels in floodplains, unavailability of funds to DDMA and rampant corruption. Moreover, lack of modern technology, disagreement between center and province and shortage of infrastructure in rehabilitation camps to accommodate masses are also challenges. However, things can be improved by taking practical steps such as transfer of funds at grassroots level, ensurance of accountability and Digitilization of records. Adding more, training of staff, allocation of sufficient budget and transfer of modern technology can enhance functionality of National Disaster Management Agency in Pakistan. Disaster Management in Pakistan is facing challenges in administrative,

DATE: ___/___/___

technological and financial sphere. In order to function properly, practical measures are needed.

Disaster management in Pakistan is headed and supervised by National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA). It is a federal body, established in 2007 with the goal of proactive approach towards management of disasters. NDMA is further divided into provincial and district level in order to counter severity of disasters. National Disaster Management Agency is facing challenges as follows.

Firstly, disaster management in Pakistan is challenging due to lack of political will. Politicians and government representatives are showing careless attitude towards controlling monster of disaster. For instance, in July²⁰²⁵, the KPK government was unwilling and reluctant to rescue tourists stranded in River Bawal for hours. Also, there were no

DATE: ___/___/___

rescue teams to help tourists in ~~calamities~~ calamities. This shows carelessness and lack of political will to manage disasters.

Secondly, the construction of illegal housing societies and hotels in floodplains and riverbeds are posing challenges to disaster management agency. These illegal constructions are politically backed and ~~from~~ ~~prevent~~ ~~hurdles~~ ~~in~~ ~~disaster~~ ~~management~~. For example, the RAVI Housing society in path of Ravi River and Lexus Hotel in Gilgit in floodplain. These illegal constructions are hurdle in disaster managements to function properly.

Thirdly, the disaster management agency in Pakistan hesitates in transferring of funds and power to lower tier level such as District Disaster Management Authority. The unavailability of funds at district level

Date: _____

is obstacle in disaster management. For instance, the non-availability of funds at district level costs more damage as there is no fund for emergency response, food and infrastructure. It can be seen in case Saidpur, Punjab where no boats were available to rescue stranded people, surrounded by water from all sides. Hence, unavailability of funds is a challenge.

Moreover, rampant corruption in National Disaster Management is another challenge in management. The corruption and irregularities in funds left little for reducing severity of calamities. The report of the Auditor General 2023-24, reveals shocking figure. As per report, Rs 22.3 millions rupee is misusing from total funds of NDMA. Therefore, the financial irregularities are shrinking space for efficient work of disaster management agency in Pakistan.

Date: _____

Besides rampant corruption, another challenge for disaster management in Pakistan is insufficient data collection of affected people. After disaster hitting the ground, reliable data of affected people and infrastructure, livestock and businesses are required in order to initiate rehabilitation processes. Unfortunately, insufficient and unreliable data collection pose challenge in management. Sometimes, district authority provides unreliable data for corruption.

In addition to this, lack of modern technology and trained staff for managing disaster is another challenge. The authoritative agency in Pakistan has no early warning systems for remote areas. The availability of technology and trained staff are only limited to urban centers. After disaster caused havoc, there is shortage of manpower, infrastructure and technology to rescue people. For instance, the whole village

Date: _____

of Alipur stranded in water and waiting rescue team to come. One villager told DAWN newspaper that after calling to rescue team, for help, they asked us to wait as team were busy in another village at that time. This shows that the shortage of trained staff is a challenge in management of disaster.

Furthermore, the disagreement between center and province over funds is another challenge for disaster management. The blame game and accusation are hurdle in efficiency of disaster management. After 18th Amendment, disaster management is a provincial subject and it is responsibility of every province to manage disasters. The outbreak of Rabies in Sindh after floods of 2022 is case in point in this regard. The non-availability of drug for rabies had created rift between government and Sindh. It resulted in suffering of masses and challenge in disaster management.

DATE: ___/___/___

Lastly, the shortage of infrastructure in rehabilitation camps to accommodate masses is another challenge. For example, the rehabilitation camp in Alipur, Punjab ~~has~~ had mismanagements regarding providing facilities to migrants. There were only one washroom for 50 people as per report of the Express Tribune. This shows disaster management in Pakistan is facing challenges in order to reduce severity of disasters and aftermaths of disaster.

Disaster management in Pakistan is facing challenges. These challenges are evident in floods in 2022 and 2025. Moreover, the cloudbursts and torrential rains in KPK has unveiled the progress and management capacity of the National Disaster Management Authority. The authority is facing hurdles in administrative, financial and technological spheres. Despite millions spent, the

disaster management agency failed miserably. It remained disconnected from ground and reality and costed lives. After floods in 2022, Pakistan had not overcome its challenges and shortcomings to manage disasters. The torrential rains and cloudbursts in 2025 acted as yardstick in order to check the capacity of disaster management agency.

The above mentioned challenges can be overcome by taking practical steps. Firstly, the disaster management agency needs to transfer funds at grassroot levels. By transferring funds at local level, its efficiency can be improved in terms of emergency response such as shifting of masses to safe place before disaster hitting the ground, provision of shelter and food etc. Therefore, transfer of funds is helpful.

Secondly, there is a dire need of ensuring accountability

DATE: ___/___/___

and transparency of National Disaster Management Agency.

The reports of corruption in agency from credentialed sources are alarming. The accountability can discourage corruption and financial irregularities in agency which ultimately better disaster management capacity.

Thirdly, there must be a digitization of records of affected people in order to rehabilitate them. The manual records are unreliable and insufficient. Therefore, a digital record can help National Disaster Management Agency to improve its efficiency.

Moreover, there should be training of staff upto mark. They must be prepared and equipped in order to cope with disaster. The lack of training of staff is hurdle in disaster management and untrained staff maximize the chaos instead of reducing severity.

DATE: ___/___/___

In addition to this, there should be allocation of sufficient budget for disaster management in Pakistan. The budget is required for installment of modern technology, training of staff and rehabilitation programmes. Also, compensation of losses are required. So, allocation of sufficient budget is one of sagacious measures.

Lastly, there must be transfer of modern technology and early warning systems to remote areas. It is reported that technology and early warning system are only limited to major cities. The remote areas and villages are deprived. Therefore, it should be made sure to transfer technology to such areas.

In a nutshell, it can be concluded that disaster management in Pakistan is supervised by the National Disaster Management Authority. This agency

DATE: ___/___/___

is facing many challenges in administrative, technological and financial arenas. These challenges are hurdles in its efficiency and functionality in terms of unable to coping with disasters and its aftermaths. However, by taking practical steps such as transfer of technology, allocation of budgets and accountability etc, its efficiency can be improved and limits challenges. Therefore, aforementioned ~~reformation~~ way forwards can bring improvement in disaster management in Pakistan.

