

Disaster Management in Pakistan Challenges and way Forward

1. Introduction :

2. Disasters upon which Pakistan is most vulnerable :

2.1 : Floods

2022 and 2025 devastation

2.2 : Cloudburst

Buner and Islamabad

2.3 : Glaciers burst, GLOF

Almost 30% glaciers melt in 2025

2.4 : Cyclone disaster ; an early warning

Bipatjoy in Sindh

2.5 : Earthquakes

Earthquake in ~~Kunad~~

Kunad, ~~Batohis~~ Afghanistan,

warning for Pakistan

3. Disaster management mechanism in Pakistan :

3.1 : Role of NDMA

3.2 : Role of PDMA and local bodies

4. Challenges

4.1 : Domestic Challenges

- a) Economic vulnerability
- b) Bad governance
- c) Lack of provincial consensus
- d) Reactive approach of authorities instead of preemptive mitigation.

4.2 : Challenges Posed by global countries

- a) Disasters are collective negligence of states for climate change
- b) Trump Approach : Climate change is Con-Job.
- c) Neighbour polluters and of climate
- d) Policy of water weaponization of upper riparian

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5. Way Forwards

5.1 Long term Disaster management policies

Climate Prosperity Plan of Finance Minister

5.2 Adaptation and mitigation Plan

a) Construction of Small dam

b) Climate resilient Infrastructure

c) Climate resilient Agri-
-farming

d) Early warning System

5.3 International voice raising
and Climate financing

Collaboration of vulnerable 20
countries and awareness
about country's vulnerability

6. Case Study of Japan's Disaster management mechanism

7. Conclusion

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The Essay

Disasters in Pakistan are the next phase of climate pollution, being contributors of less than one percent in carbon emission. It is declared as the most vulnerable country in Climate Risk Index 2025. Few disasters are inevitable because of geography of Pakistan like earthquakes owing to tectonic plates in Himalayan region but most of them are man made. Disaster management is the concept used for preemptive planning and reactive response to minimize and prevent disaster affects for both natural and man made disasters. Pakistan is most vulnerable to recurring floods, road burst, glacier burst, and recent early warnings of cyclone and earthquakes. It has established mechanisms for disaster management in terms of National Disaster Management Authority established in 2002 and Provincial Disaster Management Authority of 2010. Despite of

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Having well established institutions, they seems only for reactive response rather than preventive planning. Pakistan is the victim of several domestic challenges to manage disasters but global community is also the reason of disasters in Pakistan. "Pakistan is most vulnerable to climate because of others." UN secretary general statement on his visit to Pakistan in 2022. International voice raising, long term planning and mitigation policies are the way forward to counter the recurring disasters. Disasters are not the new normal in this world. The essence of prosperity and development lies in efficient management of disasters by knowing challenges and planning on the vision of long term sustainability.

Pakistan has been the victim of multiple disasters in recent decades but the new emerging threats of cloudburst and glaciers burst have raised serious concerns. Floods of 2010, 2022 and west

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Recent of 2025 have devastated the entire infrastructure, standing crops and vanished entire villages. According to world bank data, only floods of 2022 have has caused \$30bn loss in terms of agriculture, infrastructure and power generation and distribution lines etc. victims are trying to move forward from these losses, then new disasters of 2025 was on the queue. In 2025, new type of disasters have been seen like cloudburst in buner which caused hundreds of lives overnight in district buner of KPK. On the other hand, Islamabad also faced cloudburst in August but with minimal loss. Thirdly, glaciers burst ~~etc~~ is another challenge for Pakistan, ~~the~~ National disaster management Authority research shows that almost 30% of glaciers are melted down in 2025 and creating serious threat for northern areas because of GLOF as well. Cyclones ^{were} ~~etc~~ not the alarming threat for Pakistan, but year 2025 shows that it could be a

Challenging in upcoming years. In early 2015, cyclone Biparjoy have raised alarming threat to Pakistan from Indian oceans. Lastly, Earthquakes are another serious challenge for sustainability of Pakistan. Earthquake of 2005 had resulted in huge devastation. No doubt that the country only felt minor tremors afterwards but the recent earthquake of Kurrat Province could be next in Pakistan because of sensitive region.

Pakistan has established several mechanism to manage the disasters. Aftermath of 2005 earthquake, the country ~~have~~ has initiated National disaster management Authority, which is responsible for preventive policy making and management in the aftermath of disasters. Later provincial disaster management Authority was also established to create early and effective response in lower level. Provincial disaster management authority, with the help of local bodies of administrative and municipal institutions, is responsible for disaster management in

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all four provinces. These institutions were established to minimize the threat of disasters in both terms, adoption policies and implementation and mitigation policies and implementation. Unfortunately, recent disasters showed that minimal steps have been taken for early planning and management of disasters, these bodies were only ^{seem} activated after the disasters. Analysts say that no country can counter the disasters and threats, unless it has well functional institutions for policy making and implementations.

Among the challenges, faced by Pakistan for weak disaster management, there are several domestic challenges.

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To conclude, history shows that disasters are not a new normal in this world. Successful countries have established efficient mechanism of disasters by finding loop holes and then long term policy making on it. By adaptation of long term policies, as finance minister has expressed in second

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Annual IMF and World Bank Conference, and International awareness could be beneficial to counter this looming threat of disasters.

Several domestic and multiple challenges posed by International Community because of their unconsciousness and contribution in environmental pollution have made Pakistan most vulnerable to climate change and that eventually results in many types of disasters. Role of NDMA and PDMA is apparently increased to counter the disasters which Pakistan has been facing in recent years and that could be possible in upcoming years. "Climate change is not the upcoming threat; it becomes reality of the time." Mian Aizwan.