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Disaster Management in Pakistan: Challenges and Way Forwards Outline

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Understanding the fundamental concept of Disaster Management
- 3) Challenges of Disaster Management in Pakistan

a) Poor coordination among federal and provincial institutions

Case in Point: The 18 amendment (2010)

hinders communication.

b) Deficient early warning systems increase vulnerability

Case in Point: Pakistan lacks integrated early warning mechanism (UNDP)

c) Institutional fragility undermines disaster governance.

Case in Point: Institutional fragility creates a reactive culture (forming disaster)

d) Financial constraints limit disaster management in Pakistan

Case in Point: Government has allocated 1% of the federal budget for disaster risk

e) Rapid urbanization intensifies environmental mismanagement.

Case in point: unplanned urban expansion has increased flood vulnerability in Sindh and Punjab (ADB).

4) Way Forwards of Disaster Management in Pakistan

a) strengthen early warning and forecasting systems

→ invest in GIS, remote sensing and mobile app, SMS, radios

b) Enforce resilient urban planning and construction

→ promote green infrastructure and flood barriers

c) Adopt Modern Technology in Disaster Management

→ use drones and AI

d) Improve financial preparedness

→ Allocate higher budget or insurance schemes.

e) Promote international cooperation

→ Learn from global best practices

The comprehensive system of Disaster risk management was promulgated in the year 2007, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), nearly after 66 decades. It shows the core elements in terms of Disaster management. However, it is still not fully functional as remains encircled by persistent challenges that hinder its effectiveness. The challenges ranging from poor coordination among federal and provincial institutions, lack of early warnings, weak institutions, lack of fund allocation to rapid urbanization. These challenges undermines institution and increases the mismanagement. Floods of 2010, and 2022 to 2025 are the apparent evidences of these disaster management threats. It is well said that every action has a reaction, in a same way these threats caused deaths, people become homeless, infrastructure ruined and caused lasting economic impacts. Nevertheless, to overcome these challenges, Pakistan needs to move forward a more resilient disaster

management ^{system} through the following measures: enhance early warning systems by investing in advance meteorological technologies, strengthen urban planning by complying with disaster-resistant construction standards to reduce urban vulnerability etc. Hence, "So, vexity, with Every Difficulty, there is relief." It emphasizes a hope after challenge. Thus, every challenge has a way-forward.

The Disaster management is an institution aims to address the risks regarding disasters either man-made or natural. In Pakistan, Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) deals with disasters. In the 18th amendment it is divided into PDMA (Provincial disaster management authority) on provincial level. However, The Prime Minister of the country manages and has the authority of NDMA.

The poor coordination among the federal and provincial institutions is a significant challenge of disaster management in Pakistan. after the 18 amendment the

powers of NDMA has been divided into provincial PDMA, which hinders the role of NDMA. yet no officers has been appointed in several districts. Consequently, diminishes the working of institution and increases the mismanagement and communication problems between federal and provincial institutions. Thus, it is imperative to reform the institutions (NDMA, PDMA).

Another significant challenge of disaster management in Pakistan is lack of early warnings. According to the UNDRR, Pakistan lacks integrated early warning mechanism. Moreover, the outdated meteorological infrastructure, poor data-sharing mechanisms, and limited rural outreach makes it difficult to warn communities early. Consequently, delayed evacuations and high casualties.