

# Situation Regarding Natural Disaster in Pakistan

**Forum:** General Assembly

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## Introduction

Flooding is a relatively frequent natural disaster that occurs in many countries. Heavy rain and heavy snow are caused by storms, mainly due to tsunamis in tropical cyclones or coastal areas. From 1990 to the present, floods have affected more than 2 billion people worldwide, and people who live in flood-prone areas are very vulnerable to floods. Seventy-five percent of the human casualties are from the floodwaters. Also, due to the nature of flooding, this trend will continue. The risk of drowning arises mainly in developing countries where the ability to warn, evacuate, and protect communities from flooding is not developed. In addition to drowning, death factors include physical trauma, heart attacks, and electric shock from water leaks.

Deaths from flooding are usually recorded only from immediate trauma. However, flooding can have the following mid- to long-term effects on people:

1. Injuries such as lacerations or bruises during evacuation or due to remaining disaster cleanup,
2. Chemical hazards,
3. Effects of trauma on mental health,
4. Paralysis of the healthcare system,
5. The advent of waterborne diseases such as cholera and typhoid,
6. Difficulties in supplying food and water.

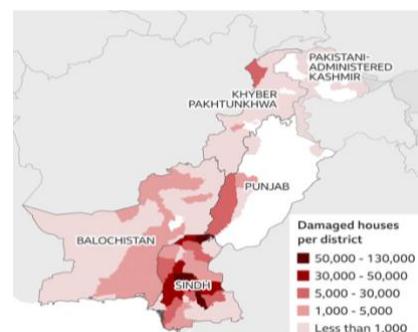


*A vehicle sits in a flood in Florida in September 2022*

## Background

In June 2022, Pakistan began to experience unprecedented rains. Heavy rains soon led to floods and landslides, affecting millions of people living in Pakistan. Their impact reached 15 percent of the population of Pakistan and four regions. Pakistani authorities say the damage caused by the 2022 floods is worse than in 2010, (1,700 people died), and that a massive international response should be taken. However, about 5 million citizens are still exposed to or live near flood areas.

Scientists say they are developing a field of research that measures the impact of global warming caused by greenhouse gas emissions on extreme weather phenomena immediately after climate change occurs, and society is still dealing with their devastating consequences. Since 1959,



*A vehicle sits in a flood in Florida in September 2022*

Pakistan has accounted for only 0.4% of the world's historic carbon emissions blamed for climate change, while the impact of global warming is one of the biggest.

## Problem raised

### *Economic Situation in Pakistan*

A state of national emergency has been declared in Pakistan after heavy rains. This means that at the national level, a huge amount of labor force has disappeared and there has been a lot of economic damage. The GDP ranking of Pakistan is not high at the 23rd. Pakistan was in a grim economic situation before such a natural disaster. They were facing a serious debt crisis but were able to avoid bankruptcy by agreeing to an agreement with the International Monetary Fund in July. The IMF approved \$1.2 billion in August, providing Pakistan with much-needed relief. But with rising prices of electricity and fuel along with rising subsidies, these measures could have a negative impact on the population. Difficult economic conditions can affect disaster relief and environmental recovery.



*Logo of International Monetary Fund (IMF)*

### *Damage to water supply systems and sanitation facilities*

Flooding damaged Pakistan's water supply system and sanitation facilities. Millions of people living in the country are no longer able to access safe drinking water and living water. Although UNICEF provides clean water to Pakistan, the water was insufficient to relieve all affected people, and many families had no alternative but to drink contaminated water. Using contaminated water affects people much more than people think. Water is predominantly contaminated by human and animal feces that have spread germs due to fecal and oral transmission. Flooding causes water to overflow, and water contains many feces and germs.

Flooding also increases the frequency of waterborne diseases such as cholera, accounting for many of the most reported health concerns in many areas affected by recent floods. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), acute water diarrhea occurs in certain areas of Pakistan, which can be said to have been prevalent in contaminated water. Diarrhea, skin and eye infections, and leptospirosis were reported in acute environments, and malaria, leishmania, respiratory infections, and hepatitis were reported in subacute environments. Flooding causes the filtration and waste treatment systems to fail, affecting the spread of diseases such as the fecal oral transmission of gastrointestinal pathogens.

## Related Countries

### *United Kingdom*

Britain is the country that has given the most support to Pakistan's floods. The UK government, the first country to respond to Pakistan's difficulties, has earmarked more than nine million pounds to address the effects of flooding, and the UK's total contribution to this issue was 36 million. Such support will help provide essential services to the people, and will lead the Pakistani government to prepare for a recoverable future. This represents a return to school

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opportunity for 20,000 students and a provision of basic medical services for 1700. The UK also provides financial support, as well as clean water, protective services for women and girls.

### *China*

After the flood disaster, Central government of China, the Chinese Army, local government of China, non-governmental organization, and private companies pledged more than \$89.94 million in cash and in kind. The support from China was an essential relied to supplies consisting of tents, blankets, high-calorie biscuits, water purifiers, and generators. Also, a team of doctors and damage assessment experts traveled to Pakistan to help flood victims. The Chinese government and businesses have pledged to provide financial support and help rebuild the damage caused by flood damage in addition to goods. China is actively attempting major infrastructure projects, including the hydroelectric power plant it has developed. For example, it was confirmed that the hydroelectric power plant invested and built by Chinese companies was safely operated for 100 days with a cumulative power generation of 1.537 billion kwh. These developments are very important because the effects of global warming and climate change represent extreme climatic phenomena, such as the floods seen in Pakistan.



*China has provided Pakistan with various supplies and grants.*

## **Positions of Organizations**

### *World Health Organization (WHO)*

The WHO is responding to the effects of massive rainfall and flooding landslides in Pakistan. Medical services are being disrupted due to damage to medical infrastructure and a lack of medical volunteers. As a result, waterborne and mediated diseases are spreading along with diarrhea, skin infection, respiratory infection, and malaria. In addition, the reduced medical services will destabilize the management of non-infectious diseases. In this situation, the WHO declared a public health threat.

The WHO is strengthening disease monitoring to prevent spread and deliver necessary supplies to health facilities for insufficient medical systems. Effective disease monitoring systems are essential to detect disease outbreaks quickly before diseases spread so widely that they become difficult to control.

### *United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)*

UNICEF supports children and their families affected by the risk of waterborne diseases and malnutrition in Pakistan. UNICEF and its partnerships, provides medical and other emergency supplies to support flood-stricken children. So far, UNICEF has delivered drinking water, water purifying agents, sanitary kits, medicines, vaccines, and treatments for children as relief supplies. It also affected the lives of 1.5 million people by January 2023.

## **Possible Solutions**

### *Construction of Dams*

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Pakistan is now very interested in dams that have the potential to solve the problems caused by flooding that the country is experiencing. Pakistan lacks dams and has to endure floods every rainy season. With the increasing rainfall, dam construction is needed to prevent further damage. The dam flows the water in the dam in advance based on the predicted figures, which can predict when the rainy season front lands and precipitation before the rainy season. This method can hold more water in the dam even if it rains a lot during the rainy season, preventing flooding in the lower reaches of the river and lowlands. Likewise, it is necessary to build dams across the country and store water to prevent further damage from flooding.

### *Drainage management*

Heavy rain can flood improperly constructed or managed drains. These drains do not function properly and are difficult to drain. Also, if there is a lot of debris in the drain when rainwater is overflowing, the contamination in it affects people's health conditions and makes them stink. Therefore, by managing and maintaining rainwater drainage ports cleanly, the possibility of water gathering on land is reduced, and it is possible to prevent water from overflowing. Efforts will be needed to specially manage and inspect drains in flood-risk areas led by the government.

### *Increasing use of eco-friendly energy*

The reason why the floods in Pakistan are serious is because of more precipitation due to global warming. Therefore, it is necessary to increase the introduction of renewable and eco-friendly energy at a national and global level. Eco-friendly energy does not affect the natural environment and slows the progress of global warming much more than other fuels. This will soon be the way to prevent increased rainfall in Pakistan from becoming severe here.



*Solar energy is a prime example of renewable energy.*

## Glossary

*Flood:* It refers to a phenomenon in which an enormous amount of water overflows and floods enough to collect on the ground.

*GDP:* Gross Domestic Product; The added value of goods and services produced by all economic actors, including households, businesses, and governments, within a country's territory over a certain period of time is evaluated and added as market prices.

*WHO:* World Health Organization; The intergovernmental organization established under the United Nations system for international cooperation in health and hygiene.

*UNICEF:* United Nations Children's Fund; The organization was established in 1946 to help children and teenagers affected by the war in accordance under the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly.

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*Waterborne disease:* Disease caused by microorganisms in untreated or contaminated water.  
Typical examples are indigestion, dysentery, and cholera.

*IMF:* International Monetary Fund; The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is the main financial institution of the United Nations, headquartered in Washington, D.C., and consists of 190 countries.

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