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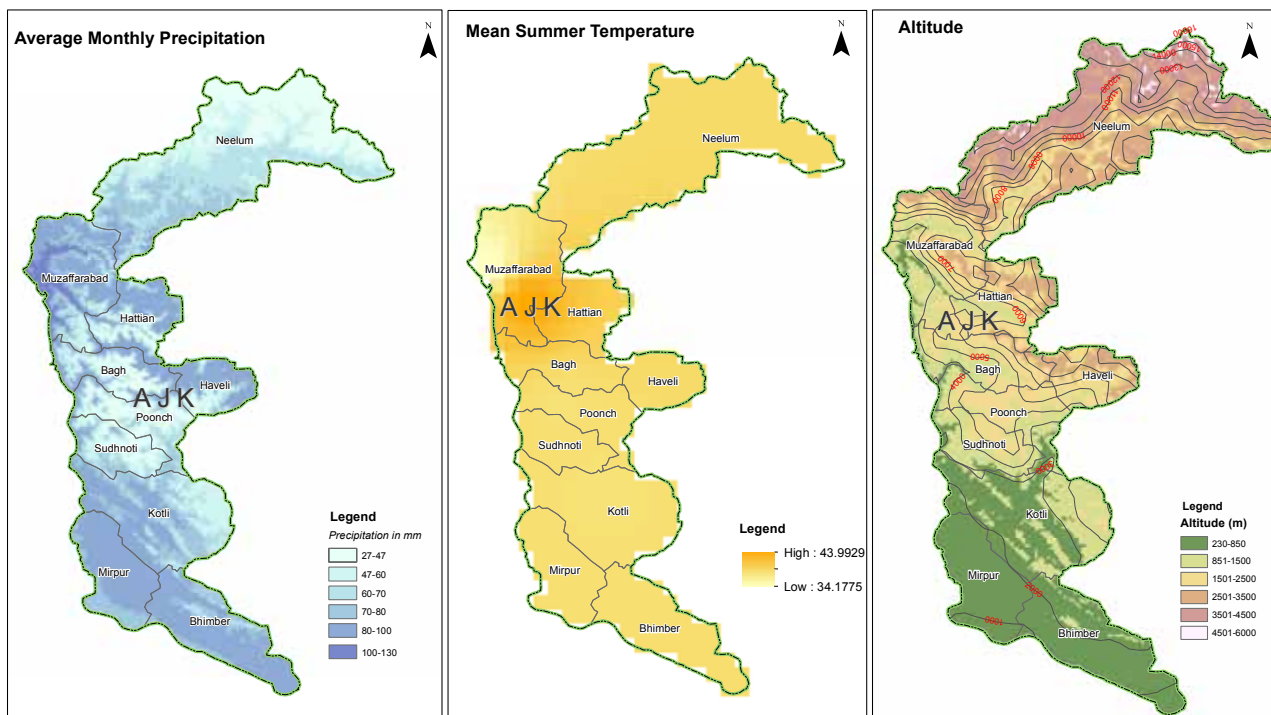
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AZAD JAMMU AND KASHMIR CLIMATE AND TOPOGRAPHY



Dataset Source:

PCO: District Boundary
World Climate Data Portal: Precipitation and altitude
PMD: Mean Summer Temperature

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Projection/Datum: WGS84 Geographic
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0 12.5 25 50 75 100 Kilometers



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NEWS HEADLINES

UN report on impact of climate change ready

Daily Dawn, March 31, 2014

Earth Hour observed with pledges to save environment

Daily Dawn, March 30, 2014

Parliament to join 'Earth Hour 2014' celebrations today

The Statesman March 29, 2014

Drive for chemical analysis of sub-soil water across Punjab

The Statesman, March 28, 2014

DETAILS

YOKOHAMA: Leading scientists and officials completed a fresh climate report on Sunday expected to lay bare the grim impact of climate change, with warnings that global food shortages could spark violence in vulnerable areas. Part of a massive overview by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) set for release on Monday, the report is likely to shape international policy on climate for years to come, and will announce that the impact of global warming is already being felt. Some 500 scientists and government officials have been gathered since Tuesday in Yokohama, south of Tokyo, to hammer out its wording. It will serve as the second of three volumes about climate change's causes, consequences and possible solutions by the expert panel. The work comes six months after the first volume in the long-awaited Fifth Assessment Report declared scientists were more certain than ever that humans caused global warming. A leaked draft of the report warned that rising greenhouse gas emissions would 'significantly' boost the risk of floods while droughts would suck away sustainable water supplies. A 'large fraction' of land and freshwater species may risk extinction, and a warming climate is projected to reduce wheat, rice and corn yields, even as food demand rises sharply as the world's population grows. Meanwhile hundreds of millions of coastal dwellers around the world would be displaced by the year 2100, the draft said, while the competition for dwindling resources could even spark violent conflicts. However, the world could avoid many of the worst-case scenarios with swift and decisive policy steps to cut emissions now, the scientists urged. The delegates were originally expected to finish drafting the official summary text late on Saturday evening, but needed extra time to update definitions and digest new approaches.—AFP

LAHORE: The World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-Pakistan) celebrated its largest symbolic environmental event Earth Hour across the country in partnership with government offices, educational institutions, hospitals, the Civil Aviation Authority and civil society. The main event in Lahore was held at Qarshi University, with hundreds in attendance on Saturday. Pakistan joined more than 7,000 cities and 156 countries around the world in celebrating Earth Hour. Several simultaneous events to mark the largest environmental movement happened in Karachi, Islamabad, Quetta, Peshawar, Faisalabad, Multan, Sheikhupura, Sukkur, Kahuta, Murree, Rahim Yar Khan and other cities with a pledge to conserve environment and natural treasures. Earth Hour events were also held at Punjab Assembly, National Assembly and Sindh Assembly to create awareness about environmental issues, such as energy shortfall and food and water security that were resulting in economic and health disasters. Celebrity Earth Hour ambassadors, including Feryal Ali Gauhar, Zoe Viccaji and Mehreen Raheel, pledged to be more environmentally conscious and lead by example, as they attended the event at Qarshi University. The event also included a talent show by university and school students, pledge signing and candle lighting activities. Hundreds of students and educationists from across the country also pledged to save natural resources, aiming at helping the country overcome the energy crisis. The participants also released balloons and lanterns in the air. Zoe entertained the audience by performing some of her hits. Last segment of the event was a fire show. WWF-Pakistan Director General and Chief Executive Officer Ali Hassan Habib said environmental issues were everyone's concern because of their grave economic, healthcare, developmental and human rights implications. He stated: "Earth Hour is a rallying call for all to consider the environment as something we all need to preserve. It is not just about turning extra lights off. It's about changing lifestyles and consumption patterns, to be more aware about how we use our planet's finite resources."

ISLAMABAD: A milestone in state's response to the cause of energy conservation has been met by the historic personal endorsement of the Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq of the National Assembly to the Earth Hour 2014. At the occasion the Speaker also talked about the existing energy conservation initiatives of the Parliament, prominent being the endeavour to go green thus becoming the first ever legislature in the World to opt for solar energy completely, Green Parliament Programme with WWF-Pakistan. Furthermore the initiative of less paper and Automation also promises an environment friendly commitment. The Speaker confirmed that the lights of the Parliament will be switched off to show Parliament's Commitment of joining hands with the World for energy conservation, combating impacts of climate change and global Warming. Earth Hour candle lighting media ceremony will be held in the Parliament House graced by the prominent Parliamentarians from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm on March 29th, 2014.

MULTAN: Punjab government has ordered chemical analysis of sub-soil water at all tube wells across the province to assess quality of water, its impact on crops and human health and utilize the data to set guidelines for growers to enable them get optimum production under given conditions.

This was stated by Ashfaq Ahmad Rahi, agriculture chemist, soil and water testing laboratory Multan, while addressing a workshop for training of officials for collection of water samples in flawless manner here Thursday. Rahi said that according to old survey, there were 250,000 tube wells in the country, however, the application of global positioning system (GPS) would give exact number of tube wells, location, depth, diameter and water quality. Chemical analysis would also declare whether the water was fit, marginally fit or unfit for crop cultivation, says a press release issued by media liaison unit of Punjab agriculture department. He said that agriculture extension officials would collect water samples and

Around 7m people died of air pollution in 2012: New WHO report

The Statesman, March 26, 2014

2013 extreme events due to warming Earth: UN

AP/Dawn, March 25, 2014

683 water plants to be installed across Thar, says Bilawal

Dawn, March 24, 2014

War on water resources seems inescapable: PEW

The Nation, March 23, 2014

would immediately send them to soil and water testing laboratory. The report of water analysis from across Punjab would be uploaded on web site 'www.sfripunjab.gov.pk'. The analysis would enable experts assess what quantity of water growers were lifting from the ground annually, the quantity of rain recharging ground water, the quality of water and its impact on human health and crops. The analysis report will be available on the website in the form of a map also showing the ingredients water contained in their respective areas. The report will enable farmers to have guidelines from the website on the basis of water and soil analysis reports regarding application of macro and micronutrient after they would give input of expected crop production. Rahi advised officials to utilize glass or plastic bottle after washing it once with warm water and then with normal water twice or thrice. Keep the tube well running for 25-30 minutes before taking the sample.

In new estimates released on Tuesday, WHO reported that in 2012 around 7 million people died - one in eight of total global deaths as a result of air pollution exposure. This finding more than doubles previous estimates and confirms that air pollution is now the world's largest single environmental health risk. Reducing air pollution could save millions of lives. In particular, the new data reveal a stronger link between both indoor and outdoor air pollution exposure and cardiovascular diseases, such as strokes and ischaemic heart disease, as well as between air pollution and cancer. This is in addition to air pollution's role in the development of respiratory diseases, including acute respiratory infections and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, according to new WHO report released from Geneva. The new estimates are not only based on more knowledge about the diseases caused by air pollution, but also upon better assessment of human exposure to air pollutants through the use of improved measurements and technology. This has enabled scientists to make a more detailed analysis of health risks from a wider demographic spread that now includes rural as well as urban areas. Regionally, low- and middle-income countries in the WHO South-East Asia and Western Pacific Regions had the largest air pollution-related burden in 2012, with a total of 3.3 million deaths linked to indoor air pollution and 2.6 million deaths related to outdoor air pollution. Cleaning up the air we breathe prevents noncommunicable diseases as well as reduces disease risks among women and vulnerable groups, including children and the elderly, says Dr Flavia Bustreo, WHO Assistant Director-General Family, Women and Children's Health. Poor women and children pay a heavy price from indoor air pollution since they spend more time at home breathing in smoke and soot from leaky coal and wood cook stoves.

GENEVA: The head of the UN weather agency blamed extreme weather on human-induced climate change on Monday, citing key events that wreaked havoc in Asia, Europe, the US and Pacific region last year.

Michel Jarraud, secretary-general of the World Meteorological Organisation, said his agency's annual assessment of the global climate shows how dramatically people and lands everywhere felt the impacts of extreme weather such as droughts, heat waves, floods and tropical cyclones. "Many of the extreme events of 2013 were consistent with what we would expect as a result of human-induced climate change," he said. The UN agency called 2013 the sixth-warmest year on record. Thirteen of the 14 warmest years have occurred in the 21st century. A rise in sea levels is leading to increasing damage from storm surges and coastal flooding, as demonstrated by Typhoon Haiyan, Jarraud said. The typhoon in November killed at least 6,100 people and caused \$13 billion in damage to the Philippines and Vietnam. Australia, meanwhile, had its hottest year on record and parts of central Asia and central Africa also notched record highs. Jarraud drew special attention to studies and climate modeling examining Australia's recent heat waves, saying the high temperatures there would have been virtually impossible without the emissions of heat-trapping carbon dioxide from the burning of coal, oil and gas. He cited other costly weather disasters such as \$22 billion damage from central European flooding in June, \$10 billion in damage from Typhoon Fitow in China and Japan, and a \$10 billion drought in much of China.

KARACHI: Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, patron-in-chief of the Pakistan Peoples Party, has said the Sindh government is installing 683 solar-powered reverse osmosis plants in drought-hit areas of Thar and other arid regions to provide 10,000 gallons of safe drinking water daily. "As the world observes the International Water Day today, we reiterate our commitment to ensure a well-irrigated and greener Sindh and Pakistan," he said in a message released by the party on Sunday. He said that PPP government in Sindh had taken revolutionary initiatives for the revitalisation of irrigation resources which included refurbishment of 3,420-mile long canals and dykes, construction and repair of 3,890 watercourses, installation of 1,762 tube wells, introduction of sprinkle and drip irrigation systems and rain guns and renovation and repair of Sukkur Barrage. A total of 500 water treatment plants would be set up in addition to 20 plants in Keamari and Lyrari and the world's biggest water filtration plant in Shaheed Benazirabad, he said. He said that his party was taking steps to sensitise public to using every drop of water consciously and wisely to be able to fulfil needs of drinking water as well as the needs of agriculture and industrial sectors.

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) today said water scarcity is to transform Pakistan into a totally failed state within a decade. War between Pakistan and India on the issue of water resources seems inevitable as serious efforts by Islamabad to increase trade between the two countries has not helped New Delhi to change its policy of water aggression, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President PEW. Speaking at a seminar on World Water Day, he

World Meteorological Day today

The Statesman, March 23, 2014

Call for concrete policy to tackle environment, global warming issues

The Statesman, March 22, 2014

Need stressed to address water threats

Daily Dawn, March 21, 2014

said that according Most Favoured Nation status to India may not change its decades-old policy to make Pakistan infertile. The issue of water aggression cannot be resolved through enhanced trade or negotiations, as India may not like to settle the dispute except a full scale armed conflict with global implications, he observed. Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that all the civilian and military governments of Pakistan have failed to ensure water security or advocate India to change its long-term policy of destroying Pakistan through water hostilities. India will continue to build dams violating Indus Water Treaty, while majority of international forums would continue to support New Delhi which has left Pakistan with little options, he said. Presently Pakistan can store ten million acre feet of water while it had storage capacity of sixteen million acre feet of water some thirty eight years ago. According to a report of World Bank, water scarcity became a threat in Pakistan some eleven years ago as per capita water availability was around half of the accepted international level. Dr. Mughal said that water scarcity will become a great danger in the next ten years which will hurt masses, agriculture and industry leading to tensions between provinces and civil war which would be enough to make Pakistan a totally failed state.

PESHAWAR: Pakistan would mark the World Meteorological Day today with the theme "Weather and Climate: Engaging Youth." The day celebrates the creation of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1950, aimed at promoting international cooperation in the field of weather, climate, water and other related sciences. This day is designated to focus attention on the importance that meteorology, weather, and climate forecasts play in our lives. The day also highlights the huge contribution that National Meteorological and Hydrological Services make to the safety and well-being of society. Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) would arrange an exhibition and display of various meteorology instruments in Karachi to mark the day. An official of PMD told APP that the exhibition would display basic meteorological instruments including latest weather radar and wind profiler radar. It would be open for the general public, he added. PMD officials will provide briefing about the automatic weather stations and satellite receiving stations to the visitors.

PESHAWAR: Participants at a seminar on International Forest Day have suggested the government to make concrete policy to tackle the impending global warming issues, and prevent the massive deforestation, posing huge threat to environment. The seminar was organized by Journalists Welfare Safety and Development Foundation (JWSDF) in collaboration with Peshawar Press Club to commemorate the Global Forest Day and highlight the environmental issues in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa here on Friday. Notable speakers include parliamentary secretary for Environment MPA Fazal Elahi, provincial legislators from PTI Arif Yousaf, PML-N MPA Sobia Khan, JWSDF Chairman Ali Hazrat Bacha, Peshawar Press Club president Nasir Hussain, Khyber Union of Journalists president Nisar Mehmood, members of civil society, and media persons.

Speakers highlighted that the growth of forest was imperative to handle increasing global warming issues. They also urged the government to take effective steps for the growing tendency of deforestation in the forest cover of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Fazal Elahi, Parliamentary secretary for Environment said the successive governments had failed to take prompt action against the timber mafia to prevent the increasing deforestation in the province, which caused huge financial losses to provincial exchequer. He said the incumbent PTI-led provincial government had introduced a concrete policy to curb the smuggling of timber in the hilly areas of the province.

Regarding the growth of forest, he said the provincial government had launched a Green Growth project, aimed to ensure green and clean KP under which more than 2billion saplings will be planted in various phases during next five years. MPA Arif Yousaf stressed the need for coordinated efforts and contribution from other political parties, civil society organizations, and media to tackle the current environmental hazards, which is a must in order to make the province pollution-free. PML-N lawmaker Sobia Khan called that all political parties should play proactive role for overcoming with the ecological threats and deforestation issues. She said the incumbent PML-N led federal government was committed to jointly resolve all the issues for all federating units.

Earlier, the JWSDF chairman, Ali Hazrat Bacha in his welcome address shed light on significance of the environment day and thanked the participants, particularly members of various political parties and representatives of civil society organizations for showing their keenness in resolution of the environmental issues. Later, the parliamentary secretary, Fazal Elahi and PML-N member KP assembly, Sobia Khan planted saplings in the lush green ground of Peshawar Press Club. The Peshawar Press Club president Nasir Hussain appreciated the effort and described it very effective for creating awareness among pollution. Senior journalists Mian Farooq Firaq and Bakht Zada Yousufzai also spoke on the occasion. Forest officials Tauheedullah Khan and Tariq Khan also participated.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal accused India on Thursday of causing water and air pollution and reduced river flows in Pakistan.

Addressing participants of a seminar on the 'National Water Day', the minister said internal and external water threats needed to be addressed urgently. He said that domestic factors were also responsible for up to 1,186 million acre feet (MAF) of water having gone into the sea utilised in 35 years, causing a loss of \$174 billion to the national exchequer. In what appeared to be the first official admission about Pakistan losing water to its neighbour, Mr

Seepage, waterlogging in 200 villages

Daily Dawn, March 21, 2014

Relief activities in full swing at Tharparkar: DG PDMA

The Statesman, March 19, 2014

Climate change to reduce crop yields much sooner than thought: Study

The Statesman, March 18, 2014

Iqbal said the country gave away 33MAF of water from its three eastern rivers to India under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty. This greatly affected the per capita availability of water. "Since then there has been gradual decline in the trans-boundary flows into Pakistan. The magnitude (of the decline) is alarming," he remarked. The flows in the eastern rivers declined by 10.25MAF, "which is a serious issue and needs to be properly investigated". The reduction in flows, he said, coupled with growth in population had reduced water availability in Pakistan to 964 cubic metres per person per year which was critically less than the threshold of water scarcity. This would hamper health and wellbeing of the people and severely affect economic development, Mr Iqbal said. The minister also warned of possible diversion of water by the Afghan government. "We need to remain alert about development activities of the Afghan government on Kabul River," he said. The minister called for establishment of a national water council for inter-provincial and inter-ministerial coordination on key issues. He said the government needed to rise to the occasion and to take corrective measures to avoid a crisis-like situation.

"Our failure to formulate and implement an effective energy policy in the last decade triggered an energy crisis, which, along with causing suffering to the people, is threatening our food security, economy and development. If we fail to formulate and implement an effective water management policy, it will lead to a disaster."

TOBA TEK SINGH: The Faisalabad Ayub Agricultural Research Institute has termed the brick lining of Trimmu Sidhnai Link Canal the only solution to save the farmland of 200 villages located along the canal. Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif had ordered the Soil Fertility Research Institute (SFRI), Punjab, to conduct a survey of the affected area to find out a solution to seepage and waterlogging from the canal which had destroyed thousands of acres of farmland of tehsils of Kabirwala (Khanewal), Shorkot (Jhang) and Pirmahal (Toba Tek Singh).

The SFRI director had deputed laboratory officers of the agricultural research institute, Dr Ghulam Rasool and Shakil Ahmad Anwar, for the survey. An agriculture department official told Dawn that agriculture chemist Muhammad Khalid Tanweer, in his report based on the survey conducted by his laboratory, said the Salinity Control and Reclamation Project had installed 290 tube wells in the area several years back to control waterlogging and salinity but only 23 of them were functional. The reactivation of tube wells could help resolve the issue to some extent, however, the lining was the only sustainable solution to the issue. The report stated that Trimmu-Sidhnai-Haveli link main line was based on two canals, running parallel to each other over an area of 50 kilometers of 200 villages. Almost five kilometer area on both sides of the twin canals had been affected by water seepage and waterlogging, it said, adding that waterlogging had not only completely destroyed the crops but it also collapsed houses. It also said that due to continuous water seepage, weed and hydrophobic plants were growing in the affected farmlands. Report recommended solution to waterlogging on a priority basis not only to restore the agricultural land but also to rehabilitate the local farmer communities. Meanwhile, Pirmahal Growers Association President Shafqat Rasool advocate and other representatives of three tehsils held a press conference at Pirmahal on Thursday and urged their elected representatives to raise the issue in parliament to save the area farmland.

KARACHI: Director General, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Syed Sulaiman Shah Tuesday said that the relief activities in the drought-hit districts of Tharparkar is in full swing for the past 11 days. Talking to media at his office here, he informed that 20,117 people in Tharparkar, 7,743 in Umerkot, 6,224 in Sanghar and 3,184 in Khairpur district have been provided medical facilities through various fixed and mobile hospitals. He said that the relief activities have also been expanded to district Umerkot, Sanghar and Khairpur adding that PDMA camp office at Mithi and Pakistan Emergency Organisation for Relief (PEOC) at Head office Karachi were functional round the clock. In reply to a question, he said 2,286,711 cattle heads in Tharparkar, 128,752 in Umerkot, 27,415 cattle heads in Sanghar and 41,656 in Khairpur have been treated / vaccinated till date. The DG said that PDMA Sindh has also provided 10 large size tents to Health Department for establishment of 50 bedded tent hospital at district Umerkot. In reply to another question, he said that one woman is reported to have died in Tharparkar on Tuesday and this has been reported by the concerned Deputy Commissioner. He said that PDMA Sindh has also dispatched 2,000 family ration bags to drought affected district of Umerkot the other day, while 174, 940 families have been provided 50 kg wheat bags in Tharparkar till date. Moreover, three trucks carrying 1,728 bags of flour, 50 kg rice and 50 kg sugar, 4,215 bottles of mineral water, 140 kg cooking oil, 1,763 mixed ration packets, 11 packets of mixed medicines, 509 packets of juice, milk, milk powder and biscuits, collected through relief collection camp at Karachi have reached drought affected areas of Sanghar, he added. He informed that Sindh Industrial Trading Estate (SITE) has also dispatched relief goods to Sanghar containing 276 bags of 5 kg flour, 98 bags of 5kg rice, 100 bags of 2kg 'daal' (pulses), 60 bags of 50 kg wheat and 480 liter of 1.5 liter mineral water bottles.

PESHAWAR: A new study suggests that climate change will adversely affect the crop yields around the globe much sooner than previously thought. The study compiled by researchers from Australia, Colombia, the United States and the United Kingdom suggests global warming of only C02 will harm crops in many parts of the world, reducing yields from the 2030s onwards, Zee News reported. The study, which is published in the latest issue of

SC quizzes Sindh govt about steps taken after FAO Thar alert

Daily Dawn, March 18, 2014

Quetta, Peshawar, Lahore among the most polluted cities of the world: WHO

AFP/Express tribune, March 17, 2014

journal 'Nature Climate Change' claims that the impact of climate change on crops will vary both from year-to-year and geographically, with the variability becoming greater as the weather becomes more and more erratic.

However, crops in the temperate and tropical regions of the world are expected to bear the brunt of climate change. "Our research shows that crop yields will be negatively affected by climate change much earlier than expected," said Andy Challinor of the School of Earth and Environment at the University of Leeds and lead author of the study. The study feeds directly into the Working Group II report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report, to be published at the end this month. To carry out the research, the researchers created a new data set by combining and comparing results from 1,700 published assessments of the response that climate change will have on the yields of rice, maize and wheat.

ISLAMABAD: Sindh government's perceived apathy to take timely action despite an advance FAO warning about food scarcity and drought alarmed the Supreme Court on Monday. A three-judge Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani ordered the Sindh chief secretary to submit a comprehensive report about preventive measures taken by the Sindh government after the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation), a subsidiary of the UN, had issued a warning five years ago about the possible drought situation and food scarcity. The Supreme Court had taken notice of the pathetic situation in the drought-hit Tharparkar district and deaths of malnourished children. Media reports suggest that Thar received no rain except a little drizzle in the beginning of the current season and almost all reservoirs dried up. The region faced a famine-like situation which led to the death of scores of children.

During the hearing, the chief justice himself referred to the FAO warning issued about five years ago and wondered what measures the Sindh government had taken to cope with the possible calamity. On behalf of the Sindh government, Advocate General Fateh Malik regretted the human tragedy and Sindh Health Secretary Iqbal Durrani said that medical practitioners posted in the area were guilty of dereliction of duty and failed to comprehend the enormity of crisis. He said he had already issued show-cause notices to 450 doctors. He claimed that malnutrition was a serious problem across the country, especially in Sindh, and the provincial government, with the help of the UN, had screened 20 of the 44 union councils of Tharparkar to cope with the situation. He said that a memorandum of understanding had been signed with a local NGO to distribute ready-to-use therapeutic food among malnourished mothers and children and its distribution would begin this week. He said that famine had affected 259,000 households in the area. The Sindh government has dispatched 73,000 sacks of 100 kg wheat and 60,000 of them had already been distributed among the affected people and the remaining would be distributed within a week. "These flour bags are meant only for affected households and not for the nomad population of around a million since they are already being taken care of in relief camps set up by armed forces and NGOs," he said. The secretary admitted the difficulty being faced by armed forces in reaching out to people in far-flung areas because of inaccessibility.

Justice Khilji Arif Hussain, a member of the bench, regretted the lack of advance planning when the famine-like situation kept appearing every three years. Besides, he said, the condition of health units and hospitals was so pathetic that even animals could not be treated there. The court ordered the chief secretary to submit a detailed report about the situation in two days.

PARIS: Quetta Peshawar and Lahore are among the most polluted cities of the world, a WHO report said. Although Paris has leapt into the headlines over an alert for dangerous atmospheric particles, it does not ordinarily count among the world's most polluted cities.

According to a 2011 World Health Organisation (WHO) report Quetta shares fourth place on the most polluted city list along with Ludhiana, India. Peshawar and Lahore also make it to the top 10 list. The pollution is measured as the microgramme (mcg) concentration per cubic metre of air of particulate matter smaller than 10 micrometres (PM10) — about a seventh of the width of a human hair. The figures are the average for the year. Seasonal spikes can be many times higher. The WHO's health guidelines are maximum exposure of 20 mcg/m3, measured as an annual average.

Here are the top 10 cities for which data is available.

- 1) Ahvaz, Iran 372 mcg/m3 (2009 data)
- 2) Ulan Bator, Mongolia 279 mcg/m3 (2008 data)
- 3) Sanandaj, Iran 254 mcg/m3 (2009 data)
- 4) Ludhiana, India (2008 data) and Quetta, Pakistan (2003/4 data) tied at 251 mcg/m3
- 5) Kermanshah, Iran 229 mcg/m3 (2009 data)
- 6) Peshawar, Pakistan 219 mcg/m3 (2003/4 data)
- 7) Gaborone, Botswana 216 mcg/m3 (2005 data)
- 8) Yasuj, Iran 215 mcg/m3 (2009 data)
- 9) Kanpur, India 209 mcg/m3 (2008 data)

Thar to get warmer, water scarcity to worsen

Daily Dawn, March 17, 2014

Disaster looming: After Thar, migrations begin from Cholistan

10) Lahore, Pakistan 200 mcg/m³ (2003/4 data)

Paris, whose levels hit a high of 180 mcg/m³ last week, has an annual mean level of 38 mcg/m³ according to 2008 data. Beijing, which has also been in the news over smothering smog, is listed with an annual mean figure of 121 mcg/m³. The Middle East and North Africa is the world's most polluted region with an annual mean level well over 130 mcg/m³, followed by Southeast Asia with a level near 100 mcg/m³. The UN's health body estimates more than two million people die every year from breathing indoor and outdoor particle pollution. Particles are released by burning petrol and diesel for car and motorcycle combustion, or coal, fuel wood, charcoal and animal waste for heating and cooking. Weather conditions can drastically affect pollution levels, as in Paris where particles were trapped by a high pressure system causing sunny days and cold nights, with little wind. Particulate pollution is also measured by levels of particles called PM_{2.5}. Measuring less than 2.5 mcg, or about a 30th the width of a human hair, these can penetrate deep into the lungs and are often made from more toxic materials than PM₁₀. Other pollution yardsticks are gases — ozone, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide that are potential irritants of the airways or eyes.

KARACHI: The already existing water scarcity in Thar will exacerbate in the next three decades as the desert is going to become hotter and rainfalls are unlikely to improve remarkably, says a recent study.

Titled Climate Change Scenario in Pakistan: A Case Study of Thar, Sindh, the research is part of a series of documents and toolkits being developed by the Research and Development Foundation, a non-governmental organisation, under its climate change adaptation programme being implemented in Chachro taluka, Tharparkar district, in collaboration with Kindernothlife and German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development. The study was commissioned to the Pakistan Metrological Department (PMD) and authored by Dr Mohammad Hanif and Mohammad Aleemul Hassan Ramey who used an established scientific methodology to predict climate change scenarios in Chhor, a town in Umerkot district, and Mithi, part of Tharparkar district. Data provided by the PMD's Climate Data Processing Centre was used as a baseline of climate scenarios. The report indicates that global warming may accompany much larger climatic changes and their adverse impacts in Thar in coming decades. The most commonly considered indicator of climate change, according to the report, is the increasing surface air temperature that causes an increase in evaporation/evapo-transpiration and generally higher levels of atmospheric water vapours, resulting changes in the seasonal rainfall patterns. "The Thar area, one of the most vulnerable regions (both socially and environmentally) of Pakistan, is almost definitely going to get hotter and rainfall conditions are probably going to remain as wildly variable as they are now," the report says. The case of Thar, according to the report, is serious given the fact the region exhibits some of Pakistan's lowest indicators on measures of education, employment diversification and social mobility, all of which are key factors for promoting resilience. Often, poverty leads to vulnerability because it limits adaptation. "Climate change poses further risks in its interaction with other environmental problems. The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report also indicates that the combination of overpopulation and climate change in Pakistan could potentially decrease the amount of water available per person, leading to intense water shortages. "Such changes would be potentially potent in the Thar Desert where water is already scarce. The region is the world's most densely populated desert ecosystem. It already endures heavy resource stress, with increasingly dire situations of overgrazing and groundwater exploitation," it says. Climate change, according to the report, exacerbates existing problems, especially depletion of groundwater. Farmers who use tube wells are less likely to perceive or expect changes in rainfall, and they are less likely to implement certain adaptive practices, suggesting that groundwater irrigation serves as a potentially unsustainable crutch against climate adversity.

According to the report, the projections for Chhor indicate that annual temperature of the study area is increasing gradually and an average expected increase in 2040 would be 1.76 centigrade. The projected seasonal scenarios indicate that nights during winter are likely to become warm and days during summer are expected to become hotter. The expected winter temperatures indicate that the season is getting warm and the winter span would be in reduction. Monsoonal and annual rainfall would continue to increase gradually till 2030 but are expected to decrease after that. The negligible winter rainfall of the study area is already decreasing and the projected amount is also indicating decreasing trend, the report says. The weather projections for Mithi indicate that annual temperature is increasing gradually and an average expected increase in 2040 would be 1.75 centigrade. Nights during winter are likely to become warm and days in summer hotter. The town would experience similar rainfall trends with winter getting warm with the passage of time. The report suggests that local communities in the Thar region should adopt traditional and sustainable practices that foster resilience, such as rainwater harvesting, agriculture diversification, animal husbandry and conservation of forests to deal with the climatic variability. "By continuing and improving these practices, the residents of Thar can efficiently adapt to future changes. As farming becomes more difficult, villagers will need to seek alternatives to agriculture as a source of livelihood. Otherwise, the life in Thar, in the long run, cannot be truly sustainable," the report warns.

RAHIM YAR KHAN: After drought hit the district of Tharparkar in Sindh, a similar situation seems to be developing in Cholistan, Punjab, where people have started to migrate to other areas. With no regular rainfall since 2010, the vegetation and livestock in the desert are

Express tribune, March 17, 2014

Lucky Cement takes Int'l Earth Hour campaign to remote areas of KP

The Statesman, March 16, 2014

under threat – the remains of animals that have died of hunger and thirst dot the landscape of Cholistan. Migrations have begun to other areas as grazing lands are parched and as fodder becomes scarce. Moreover, reservoirs of water have dried up due to extreme aridity. An alternative water distribution system is in place in Cholistan but this system is closed for the last six years. The pipelines linked to pumping stations have become useless while their generators have lost their machinery. However, if the government takes immediate action, this system can still be revived and Cholistan can be spared a Thar-like disaster. The people of the desert demand that the Punjab government take steps to help them before a calamity befalls them. Lest people of the area also start dying like their cattle.

PESHAWAR: Lucky Cement Limited (LCL), Pakistan's largest producer and leading exporter of quality cement, has joined hands with WWF Pakistan in hosting Earth Hour - world's largest volunteer campaign, throughout Pakistan. The campaign started with a school outreach program and awareness drive at its Pezu Plant in KP province. The activities were led by cricket sensation Shoaib Akhtar who spoke to the KP audience about the importance of saving electricity. This is the 3rd consecutive year of Lucky Cement's support to the world's largest volunteer campaign Earth Hour in Pakistan.

During the outreach program Lucky Cement and WWF Pakistan's team along with cricket star Shoaib Akhtar visited Lucky City School, Pezu and interacted with the school children. Students were thrilled to find the fastest bowler teaching them the importance of energy conservation. Lucky Cement also arranged an interactive session where Shoaib Akhtar briefed employees about the purpose of celebrating Earth Hour. The employees vowed to switch off unnecessary lights at 8:30 pm on March 29, 2014 in order to show their commitment to save electricity. The event ended with symbolic candle lighting by Shoaib Akhtar.

Talking about his experience the fastest bowler in the history of cricket Shoaib Akhtar stated, "It is indeed the responsibility of every individual to ensure that we do not just take away from Mother Nature but give something back to it as well. It was heartening to see the interest of Pezu residents in environmental issues. I am thankful to WWF and Lucky Cement for taking this initiative and bringing the message of sustainability to a remote area like Pezu. Their efforts are commendable." Lucky Cement is the only company in Pakistan to celebrate Earth Hour all over the country. Lucky Cement is not only the largest cement producer and exporter of Pakistan, but is also on the forefront of innovation and technological advancements, which has enabled it to set up its own captive power generation units that provide electricity for its operations. The company implemented Dual Fuel Conversion in its power generation engines in 2008, thus shifting the company's reliability of power generation from furnace oil towards environment friendly alternative sources.

Steps for disaster risk reduction stressed

Daily Dawn, March 15, 2014

LAHORE: Speakers at a dialogue on Friday urged the need for moving towards disaster risk reduction to minimise loss to human life and property. The dialogue was organised by the Institute of Social and Policy Sciences (ISAPS) in collaboration with the Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI).

Speakers included Punjab Assembly's Standing Committee Chairman Bilal Bhatti, Rescue 1122 Director Brig retired Arshad Zia, Director Civil Defense Rashid Kamal Rehman and Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Director Coordination Nisar Sani. Mr Bhatti said good governance in disaster risk reduction was a must in order to improve the disaster risk management. It was necessary to develop confidence of the multiple stakeholders. He highlighted the importance of coordinated, collective, inclusive and prompt response in the disaster risk management framework. He said the research findings by the ISAPS needed to be shared with the decision makers to link policies with the situation on ground. Retired Brig Zia said disaster response force of the PDMA Punjab, such as Rescue 1122 had the capacity to immediately provide essential equipment to deal with any disaster. Mr Sani highlighted the importance of capacity building of the PDMA structure and the need to incorporate the disaster risk reduction with the district tiers. ISAPS Researcher Ahmad Ali introduced the project of Fencing Flood while Luqman Ahmed gave details of the research findings of the project.

Thar-like drought feared in Rawalpindi

The Statesman, March 15, 2014

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Friday expressed fears of Thar-like drought situation in the Rawalpindi within next few years. Availability of water which is essential to all forms of life will be reduced dramatically within years in the city and cantonment areas of Rawalpindi, which would be worse than the ongoing energy crisis, it said. Realising the threat, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) asked the Punjab Government to construct a dam on Soan River at Daducha which will provide 25 million gallon water to the city daily for next 50 years, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President PEW. JICA said that Rawal Dam is to complete its expected life soon while the requirement of Rawalpindi is expected to touch 80 million gallon per day in the next twenty years therefore a dam on best available location of Daducha should be constructed immediately. Small Dam Organisation, Rawalpindi Development Authority, City District Government Rawalpindi and other departments supported the idea and the Punjab government allocated funds for feasibility report, added it in the Annual Development Plan and initiated efforts to acquire 1800 acres of land for the dam.

Minister says drought may hit half of country

ISLAMABAD: Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal has warned that Thar-like drought may hit half of the country if new water reservoirs are not built. He said the planning

Daily Dawn, March 13, 2014

**Drought in Tharparkar:
Revised population data
puts famine toll higher**
Express tribune, March 13, 2014

commission would hold a Pakistan Water Summit at Islamabad on March 20 in collaboration with the ministry of water and power to work out a water policy for proactive development and management of water resources.

Addressing an international workshop on "safe connected communities against floods through remote sensing and GIS tools, organised by Unesco and Suparco here on Wednesday, the minister said: "Water shortage may turn out to be a worse crisis than the ongoing energy crisis as a phenomenon of climate change may reduce water availability up to 40 per cent, pushing Pakistan to be a water-starved country." He said natural disasters were a major risk to the country's sustainable development and the impact of some of these disasters such as floods could be reduced if accurate and timely forecasts were issued to help in better planning and execution of evacuation and rescue work. He said that recent advancement in space and remote sensing technologies and its various applications had proved to be valuable tools to help prevent disasters and speed up rescue and relief operations. Suparco chairman Ahmed Bilal said an integrated flood analysis system (Indus-IFAS) had been completed which would contribute to flood forecasting and early warning. Mr Iqbal said that in view of recent floods in eastern rivers, there was a need to improve flood management capacity of eastern rivers.

HYDERABAD: An official estimate of the number of people affected by famine in Tharparkar has escalated after Sindh government revised population estimates from 175,000 families to 259,945 families in the district. The previous count was based on the 1998 population census. Speaking with the media in Mithi on Wednesday, the Sindh government's coordinator on relief Taj Haider and MPA Mahesh Malani confirmed the figures. The revised figures were announced on the heels of a number of complaints by locals that several people are being denied subsidized wheat. The provincial government is distributing 120,000 wheat bags of 50 kilogrammes each to families in the district and subsidized wheat is being sold at half the market price.

Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah, who visited Tharparkar for the third time in five days on Wednesday, said that 48,000 wheat bags have been distributed so far. "I am personally monitoring the relief activities," he said. "We will not allow any negligence." The chief minister has formed two committees to conduct an inquiry against officials whose negligence enabled the situation to reach a crisis point. He said action would be taken against those responsible. "I hope Makhdoom Amin Fahim now knows who is responsible for this negligence," the CM said while responding to a question in reference to MNA Makhdoom Amin Fahim's sons. One son, Makhdoom Aqeel uz Zaman was deputy commissioner of Tharparkar and another, Makhdoom Jameel uz Zaman, was the provincial relief minister – he was removed from his position, along with Relief Commissioner Lala Fazal-ur-Rehman, on Tuesday night. Additionally, Fahim's son Makhdoom Naimatullah is an elected MPA from Tharparkar. The Sarwari Jamaat, led by the family, responded by issuing a press release in Matiari blaming the chief minister for being responsible for the situation in Tharparkar. Meanwhile, people in the district continue to flock to Mithi's Civil Hospital. 37 children from various parts of the district were admitted overnight, according to paediatrician Dr Dileep. The NDMA announced that 40 medics and paramedics, with medical supplies, have travelled from Hyderabad to the area and the provincial government has released Rs30 million for the District Hospital Mithi. Additionally, 10 doctors have been deputed from neighbouring districts for the provision of emergency services. However, district health officer Abdul Jalil Bhurgari said there is still a dire need to address the paucity of trained personnel at Tharparkar's health facilities as doctors from urban areas in Sindh are unwilling to lend a hand. "The health department has transferred nine doctors to Tharparkar so far, but only three have joined," Bhurgari said, adding that 'six others are trying to prevent their posting here'.

According to unofficial estimates, between 135 and 200 children have died in Tharparkar over the last three months; most of these deaths have been attributed to malnourishment. Locals say the death toll is higher than being reported as the number of children who die in the district's rural areas – home to over 90 per cent of Tharparkar, with more than 2,350 villages – are not included in official or unofficial tolls. The NDMA announced that relief efforts are gathering steam. The provincial government has also announced compensation of Rs200,000 for families who have lost their children during the crisis. However, some say efforts are being concentrated in one area, leaving others out. "So far the media and government's attention is focused on Mithi and its surrounding villages," said Pratab Shevani, a local activist. "We are still exploring the situation in other areas further away," he added.

**CRM concerned over
situation in Tharparkar**
Daily Dawn, March 12, 2014

ISLAMABAD: Voicing concern over the deaths of newborn babies in Tharparkar, the Child Rights Movement (CRM) Pakistan has demanded implementation of the multi-sectoral nutrition strategy to overcome the crisis there.

Moreover the federal government has been urged to develop a mechanism aimed at ensuring access of under-5 children to health services. Over 100 non-governmental organisations have set up CRM. So far, more than 100 children have died because of shortage of edibles including food, milk and water in the last three months. As the situation had gone from bad to worse, the chief justice also took suo motu notice.

Besides, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited Tharparkar and announced Rs1 billion aid. In a statement issued by CRM it has stressed to adopt a strategy to prevent not only under five and maternal deaths but ensure healthy growth of children. "This is an alarming situation and

Situation still alarming in Thar

The News, March 12, 2014

SC seeks Sindh report on causes leading to drought

Daily Dawn, March 11, 2014

requires an effective and sustainable solution to ensure that children's lives are saved," statement says. "Pakistan's maternal, newborn and under-five mortality rates are quite high and malnutrition is one of the key contributing causes of almost 45 per cent of all preventable deaths in the country," says CRM. The statement says the federal and provincial governments should respond seriously by taking emergency as well as long term development steps to ensure that under nutrition among children is prevented.

The Sindh government should immediately send teams of doctors to Tharparkar to help mothers and children who were affected by under nutrition and provide them not only medical treatment but also nutritious food, the CRM said. "The issue of under nutrition among children and women is not an issue to be handled by the department of health or food only rather there is a need to involve departments of education, agriculture, food, zakat, social welfare and women development, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and the Civil Society and media to respond to the situation," the statement said.

According to Article 38 (d) of the constitution it is the responsibility of the state that all citizens are provided with basic necessities of life. However, the findings of the National Nutrition Survey 2011 clearly shows that little or no focus has been given to the right to food which is resulting in various health related problems among women and children. The federal and provincial governments should prioritise nutrition and food security and take immediate steps to prevent any future catastrophe, recommended the CRM.

Karachi: The Sindh High Court on Tuesday directed the district and sessions judges of Tharparkar and Umerkot to monitor relief activities for the Tharparkar affectees either personally or by appointing judicial officers in their stead. The judges were also directed to gather data regarding deaths by illnesses and food shortage in the affected district. The order came on a petition filed by the Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research and others seeking action against government functionaries for failing to provide relief and health facilities for the drought-stricken citizens of Tharparkar. The petitioners submitted that most areas of Tharparkar District – including the tehsils of Mithi, Chachro, Diplo, Islamkot and Nagarparkar – were faced with a famine-like situation and over 200 people, majority of them malnourished children, had died there.

Faisal Siddiqui, the petitioners' counsel, said around 175,000 families were reported to have been affected and some of them had been forced to leave their homes due to famine. He submitted that Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah had reportedly acknowledged the negligence and failure of the local administration in the tragedy. He said lives of children could have been saved if doctors, paramedics and health department officials had taken the matter seriously and taken them to hospitals in Hyderabad and if wheat bags had been properly distributed among the affected families. The counsel sought directing the district and sessions judges to inquire into the effectiveness of the relief work being carried out by various government agencies. He also asked the court to order a detailed report with particular reference to the number of deaths as a result of the catastrophe and the current supply and requirement of food and health facilities. He submitted that the exercise would create an effective monitoring and remedial mechanism, adding that the report would provide a basis for the court to issue pertinent orders for alleviating the miseries of the people of Tharparkar. The SHC division bench headed by Chief Justice Maqbool Baqar directed the district and sessions judges of Tharparkar and Umerkot to monitor the ongoing relief work and gather information regarding the number of deaths, preferably on the basis of age and gender. The SHC directed that the judicial officials should visit hospitals, health centres and relief camps in the area with the assistance of government functionaries, who should allow unhindered access to the officers for complying with the court's order. The court ordered submission of initial reports by the respective judicial officers by March 18. The bench also issued notices to the federal and provincial law officers, the chief secretary, the secretaries of the food and livestock departments and others, seeking their comments in the next hearing.

ISLAMABAD: A representative of the Sindh government could not say anything, except expressing regrets on Monday when Chief Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani observed during the hearing of a case relating to death of dozens of children in Tharparkar district because of malnutrition that "we should hang our heads in shame". A two-judge bench headed by the chief justice asked the Sindh government to submit a detailed report on the causes leading to the catastrophe and take action against the delinquent. The provincial government is also required to submit an action plan to prevent such crisis in future. When the case was taken up, Advocate General of Sindh Fateh Malik accused the media of exaggerating the issue and said drought had hit the region because it did not receive adequate rains this season. The chief justice said it was only because of the media that the plight of people of the area had been highlighted. Mr Malik said that 60 children had died so far and explained that drought was not the only reason for the deaths. Cold weather and local people's reluctance to go for timely treatment were other factors, he added. But he acknowledged that the people responsible for hoarding food stocks should be made accountable. He said the Sindh government accepted the responsibility. Sindh Home Secretary Mumtaz Ali Shah said the administration should act even if one child died and assured the court that an inquiry would be held. He said that 120,000 food bags had been distributed, Rs200,000 would be given to each of the families of the deceased and medical treatment was being provided in the affected area. Mr Malik informed the court that Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah had been

PM announces Rs1billion aid for famine-hit Thar

The Statesman, March 11, 2014

New ozone-depleting gases found in atmosphere

The News/Web-edition, March 10, 2014

attending to the crisis for one week and realising the gravity of the situation had even called a meeting of the cabinet in Mithi, the headquarters of Tharparkar. Moreover, he said, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had also visited the drought-hit district.

LG POLLS: The same bench declared the federal government's explanation about delaying the local government election in all 43 cantonment boards as prima facie reluctance on its part. In a concise statement, Attorney General Salman Aslam Butt had contended that LG polls under the existing laws would open floodgates of litigation, affecting the functioning of the boards. The holding of elections, he said, would not be a good idea before rectifying anomalies since the existing composition of the local government system in the cantonment areas was highly undemocratic and had lost its representative character due to promulgation of various laws during extra-constitutional rule. Since the AG had also suggested that the government be directly ordered to submit a reply, the court asked Defence Secretary retired Lt Gen Asif Yasin Malik to submit in a week a concise statement explaining anomalies causing delay in the holding of LG polls in cantonment boards. The court also directed Advocate General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Abdul Latif Yousufzai to suggest polls schedule after consulting the Election Commission of Pakistan and completing the ground work. The court was informed that the relevant rules had not yet been notified and delimitation of wards in the province was yet to be completed. It has not been decided yet whether the LG polls will be held by using the bio-metric system. The KP government had requested the court to allow it to hold the elections in a phased manner to ensure security and said it was considering using the bio-metric system.

MITHI: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif announced Rs.1 billion aid package for the drought-affected people of Tharparkar district. He made the announcement during a briefing by the district administration to the prime minister on the situation in Tharparkar. Nawaz said steps should be taken to prevent a similar situation from occurring in the future and wondered if the situation in Tharparkar and Cholistan desert was similar then how come there was no famine in Cholistan. Facilities should be provided at the people's doorsteps using mobile health units, he added. The briefing was also attended by patron-in-chief of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chief Minister of Sindh Syed Qaim Ali Shah and other senior members of the PPP. He also said that Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah should take serious notice of the incident and take action punish those responsible for negligence. "CM Sindh should take serious notice of the incident and while taking action punish those responsible for negligence," Nawaz said. The Prime Minister said strict action should be taken against those responsible for the negligence in distribution of wheat among the residents of Tharparkar. He also suggested launching of mobile health units in far-flung areas of the Tharparkar district so that the people could get medical facility at their nearest. The Prime Minister was also briefed about the relief activities in the drought-hit areas.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday declined to be served a luncheon by the Sindh government during his visit. According to INP, the Sindh Chief Minister had arranged the luncheon for the Prime Minister but Mian Nawaz Sharif politely declined the offer and said that the resources that were to be spent on the lunch be diverted to the drought affectees.

PARIS: Worried scientists said Sunday they had found four new ozone-destroying gases in the atmosphere, most likely put there by humans in the last 50-odd years despite a ban on these dangerous compounds. It is the first time since the 1990s that new substances damaging to Earth's stratospheric shield have been found, and others may be out there, they said. "Our research has shown four gases that were not around in the atmosphere at all until the 1960s, which suggests they are man-made," the team from Europe and Australia wrote in the journal Nature Geoscience. They analysed unpolluted air samples collected in Tasmania between 1978 and 2012, and from deep, compacted snow in Greenland. "The identification of these four new gases is very worrying as they will contribute to the destruction of the ozone layer," added a statement from the team. "We don't know where the new gases are being emitted from, and this should be investigated." Three of the gases are chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) -- a group which includes chemicals traditionally found in air-conditioning, refrigerators and aerosol spray cans but banned under the Montreal Protocol. The fourth is a hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC), part of a closely-related group of compounds which replaced CFCs but are being phased out. More than 74,000 tonnes of the four newly-identified gases had accumulated in the atmosphere by 2012, said the team. This is very small compared with peak emissions of CFCs in the 1980s of more than a million tonnes per year.

- Riddle of the source -

"However, the reported emissions are clearly contrary to the intentions behind the Montreal Protocol, and raise questions about the sources of these gases," the team wrote. Two of the gases, one CFC and the HCFC, are still accumulating. Previously, seven types of CFC and six of HCFC were known to contribute to ozone destruction. CFCs, the main cause of the hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica, are man-made organic compounds made of carbon, chlorine and fluorine. They were phased out from 1989, followed by a total ban in 2010. HCFCs, CFC-like compounds which also include one or more hydrogen atoms, are less ozone-damaging but contribute to climate change by trapping more of the Sun's heat in the atmosphere. The ozone layer comprises triple-atom oxygen molecules that are spread thinly in the stratosphere. It plays a vital role in protecting life by filtering out ultraviolet rays that can damage vegetation and cause skin cancer. In high latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere,

WFP helps Sindh treat malnourished women, children

The Nation , March 10, 2014

where the ozone layer is damaged or subject to seasonal fluctuations, people are advised to cover exposed skin and wear sunglasses. Possible sources for the new gases include chemicals used for insecticide production and solvents for cleaning electronic components, said the researchers. Concentration differences between the samples suggested the dominant source was in the industrialised Northern Hemisphere, they added.

Study co-author Johannes Laube from the University of East Anglia's School of Environmental Sciences said the ozone layer stopped thinning from the late 1990s and there were signs of it starting to recover. "As many ODSs [ozone-depleting substances], and especially CFCs, take a long time to break down once released into the atmosphere, it will be many decades until it will fully recover," he told AFP. "Provided we do not have further unpleasant surprises."

Martyn Chipperfield, a professor of atmospheric chemistry at the University of Leeds in northern England, said the low concentrations of the four gases "do not present concern at the moment." But, he added, "the fact that these gases are in the atmosphere and some are increasing needs investigation."

ISLAMABAD: The World Food Programme and Sindh government jointly launched Rs 600 million project to assist around 348,000 children, and pregnant and lactating women suffering from malnutrition to prevent stunting and micronutrient deficiencies. The project initiated by Sindh government's health department, in collaboration with WFP and World Health Organisation would help prevent stunting (chronic malnutrition), primarily focusing at children, pregnant and lactating women in selected union councils of Thatta and Sajawal districts in Sindh. It would also prevent their intergenerational transmission using locally produced specialized nutritious products and promoting appropriate infant and young child feeding practices utilising effective behavior change communication strategies. This will also contribute to reducing the incidence of low birth weight as maternal nutritional status of around 127,000 pregnant and lactating women will be improved.

According to the government survey, the food insecurity and the prevalence of under-nutrition in Sindh was higher compared to most of the other provinces of the country. During the launching ceremony, WFP Representative and Country Director in Pakistan, Lola Castro together with the WHO team handed over medical grade anthropometric equipment to Aslam Pachu, Additional Secretary Health, government of Sindh. This equipment will be utilized for assessing the nutritional status of mothers and children and about 550 kits were handed over valued at 21 million rupees.

WFP Representative Lola Castro emphasized that National Nutrition Survey 2011 estimates stunting prevalence in children under five in Sindh at 49.8 percent and anaemia levels at 72.5 per cent, while anaemia in pregnant and lactating women is estimated 60.7 per cent. She further stressed that there was an urgent need of addressing the problem the earliest possible, during the first 1,000 days of life "window of opportunity" (from conception up to the first 2 years) in order to break the intergenerational transmission of stunting. She said the WFP is supporting federal and Sindh governments in many major initiatives, including this intervention for prevention of stunting and addressing micronutrient deficiencies in Thatta with a special focus on 'first 1000 days' from pregnancy upto two years of age and children under 5 years of age. Thatta and Sajawal are part of the 19 priority districts identified by the government of Sindh to address high prevalence of under-nutrition in children as well as pregnant and lactating women, Lola added. The districts are also ranked high in terms of food insecurity. "This initiative shall strengthen evidence on the effectiveness of such preventive interventions. The project will also contribute to new operational research to ascertain the optimal length of preventive interventions and the use of specialized nutritious foods." Lola Castro said. Stunting prevention is also one of the global target set by World Health Assembly, food based approaches clubbed with the appropriate infant and young children feeding strategies. Campaigns like this will definitely set the momentum for reduction in stunting, Lola said.

CJ takes notice of Tharparkar drought

Daily Dawn, March 08, 2014

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani took notice on Friday of the death of children in Tharparkar district of Sindh because of malnutrition. The chief justice was prompted to take notice by a letter written by his predecessor, former chief justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry, which drew his attention to deplorable conditions in Tharparkar and a press report about the death of a number of malnourished children in the famine-hit region. The area has recently received no rain, except a little drizzle in the beginning of winter. Almost all water reservoirs have dried up and Thar is facing a famine-like situation. Thirty-two children have died of malnutrition. But the official announcement issued by the Supreme Court office did not mention the letter of the former chief justice. It said that Chief Justice Jilani had taken notice on media reports which said people were facing starvation because of drought in the region and around 100 children had died due to malnutrition and diseases. The chief justice observed in his order that the situation was a serious violation of Article 9 of the constitution and ordered the chief secretary of Sindh to submit a report to his bench in Islamabad during a hearing on Monday. The order said an official of the Sindh government, not below the rank of additional secretary, should appear with the report in the court on behalf of the chief secretary.

Justice Chaudhry told Dawn that he had written the letter to the chief justice, requesting him to initiate proceedings under Article 184(3) of the constitution to enforce fundamental rights

Misery of drought-hit Tharparkar wakes up govt.

Daily Dawn, March 08, 2014

and protect the lives of people of Tharparkar district. "The situation amounts to a denial of fundamental rights of Tharparkar people, particularly their security and respectability, under Article 9 and 14 of the constitution," said Justice Chaudhry. In a farewell dinner hosted by Chief Justice Jillani on Dec 11, Justice Chaudhry had expressed the resolve to live a meaningful public life after his retirement while remaining among people, labourers and the oppressed. "It seems that Justice Chaudhry is becoming more visible to public life since this is his second move in three days," a senior lawyer said, adding that the former chief justice has retired from the high office, but not from public life.

On Wednesday, Justice Chaudhry attended a reference organised by the lawyers of Islamabad to condemn the March 3 terrorist attack on Islamabad district courts in which 11 people, including additional district and sessions judge Rafaqat Ahmed Khan Awan, were killed.

KARACHI / MITHI: As people continued to suffer from severe shortages of food, water and medicines in large areas of Sindh's Tharparkar district, another nine malnourished children are reported to have died, taking the toll to 41 and, according to unconfirmed reports, to 100. Large numbers of women nursing their sick children and hungry people waiting for food were seen in villages. With reports of people's misery being flashed by media, the government suddenly woke up and Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah announced a relief package of Rs100 million and ordered distribution of 60,000 bags of wheat among the affected people. He also announced that Rs200,000 compensation would be paid to each bereaved family.

The chief minister who visited Mithi told newsmen on his return to Karachi on Friday that he had ordered arrest of the medical superintendent of the Civil Hospital, Mithi, where most of the children had died and registration of criminal cases against him. He also removed the district's director health, suspended the director and the deputy director of livestock and the deputy commissioner and transferred the SP. Mr Shah said he had constituted three committees for a thorough inquiry into the causes of the tragedy and to fix responsibility and ensure transparency in distribution of wheat. About the plight of drought-affected people, he said it was not only malnutrition which had caused the death of the children because most of them died of pneumonia. The number of children who had recently died in the district because of different reasons could rise, he said. To provide medicines needed by the hospitals in the district, Rs10m was being immediately released, he said, adding that the amount might be increased if more funds were required. He said two newborn children had been taken to Hyderabad from the Mithi hospital because their condition was serious. The chief minister said he had issued directives for supply of fodder for livestock in Thar within 24 hours. He admitted that there were weaknesses in the government system which needed to be improved. When asked why action had been taken only against officials and not against the ministers concerned, he said the officials were responsible for the tragedy because they had failed to discharge their duty. He said the cold weather was also responsible for diseases and deaths but another reason was failure of officials to timely distribute wheat provided by the government. The deputy commissioner was responsible for coordinating the distribution and the SP for maintaining law and order. Besides a departmental inquiry, he said, a committee headed by DIG of Hyderabad zone Sanaullah Abbasi would look into criminal negligence of the officials and fix responsibility. PPP leader Taj Haider, a member of the committee, will monitor the situation and stay in Tharparkar for a week. He said another committee headed by the MPA of the area would ensure transparency in wheat distribution.

Sindh Information Minister Sherjeel Memon said when drought hit the desert area in the past, wheat was provided to people at half the price but now it would be distributed free. The population of Tharparkar district is about 1.6 million living in scattered villages of five to 10 families. People depend on rain for growing food crops and fodder. Though the district received some rain in November last year, it was scattered and not enough to irrigate land.

Sindh Health Secretary Iqbal Durrani told the chief minister in Mithi that keeping in mind the national child mortality rate, the figure of the children's death in the backward and remote areas of Thar over the past few months was not alarming. Admitting that the district lacked proper healthcare facilities, he said efforts were being made to provide medicines to Thar hospitals and appoint doctors.

Dr Jawaharlal, civil surgeon of the Mithi Civil Hospital, said the situation was not as alarming as reported in the media since the children had died because of different diseases and several of them were from other districts. He said the hospital had an annual budget of Rs9.3 million for purchasing medicines and faced shortage of doctors.

The commissioner of Mirpurkhas division alleged that wheat provided by the Sindh government could not be distributed in remote villages because of lack of funds for transportation. Sindh Minister for Aqaf, Zakat and Ushr Dost Ali Rahimoon said 50 per cent of the posts of doctors in Thar hospitals had been vacant over a few decades. Except for the Mithi hospital, no hospital in the district has a lady doctor.

MPA Dr Mahesh Kumar Malani called for upgrading the Mithi hospital which currently had only 74 beds.

Sindh Minister for Population Welfare Syed Ali Mardan Shah said three union councils in the desert area of Umerkot district were also facing drought and called for supply of wheat at subsidised rates there. The chief minister also said half of Tharparkar had been hit by drought and the Sindh government had declared it a calamity-hit area. The issue of shortage

SHC chief justice seeks report on Thar situation

Daily Dawn , March 08, 2014

Famine-like situation in Thar after severe drought

Daily Dawn , March 07, 2014

Saaf Pani Project to save people from diseases: CM

The News, March 04, 2014

of medicines and doctors in the hospitals would be resolved on priority basis.

According to APP, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has taken notice of the situation in Thar and directed the National Disaster Management Authority to immediately get in touch with the provincial authorities and provide assistance.

KARACHI: Sindh High Court (SHC) Chief Justice Maqbool Baqar on Friday directed the chief secretary, secretaries of food, agriculture and livestock departments and other officials concerned to submit a detailed report about the reported famine-like situation in parts of Tharparkar district. The chief justice took notice of the situation in Tharparkar on an application of SHC Bar Association that sought punitive and exemplary action against provincial authorities responsible for depriving the people of their fundamental rights to have food and water. The chief justice converted the SHCBA's application into a constitutional petition and ordered the provincial government to explain the criteria and mechanism of the supply of wheat and other food items to the areas affected by the drought, including Mithi, Diplo, Islamkot and Nangarparkar. The application was submitted by SHCBA General Secretary Asim Iqbal who said the situation in the district was grim as the media had reported that hundreds of children had died because of malnutrition. He said the government had completely failed in taking care of basic needs of citizens and their fundamental rights. "The bar has received letter from its members who requested [the] SHC chief justice to take notice of [the] tragic situation and order punitive action against government functionaries responsible for the drought-caused miseries in Thar," he added. The chief justice directed the chief secretary and other officials to inform the court about the measures being taken by them to mitigate the situation caused by drought and negligence of provincial authorities. He also issued directives for submitting a detailed report on measures being taken against the outbreak of epidemics among humans and livestock in the affected areas. The National Disaster Management Authority was put on notice and directed to submit a report on measures taken to alleviate miseries arising out of drought. The chief justice issued a notice to the provincial law officer and put off the hearing to March 14.

KARACHI / MITHI: Most areas of Sindh's Tharparkar district are facing a famine-like situation and at least 32 malnourished children are reported to have died. About 175,000 families are reported to have been affected and some of them have been forced to leave their homes and move to barrage areas.

According to a report received on Thursday, PPP patron-in-chief Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has expressed concern over the situation and ordered the Sindh government to immediately launch a relief operation. He has set up a special committee to monitor the situation. The PPP leader called his adviser on minority affairs, Surendar Valasai, who is from Thar, and said he would take up the issue with Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah to ensure that relief and rehabilitation measures were undertaken across the affected area. He said elected representatives, leaders and workers of the PPP would fully cooperate with the Sindh government in ameliorating the situation.

Only nine of 166 dehs in Tharparkar district are located in the command area of a barrage. The rest are in the desert where people mostly depend on rain for growing food and fodder crops. The area received no rain, except a little drizzle in the beginning of the current season. Almost all reservoirs have dried up and Thar is facing a famine-like situation. Tharparkar is hit by drought every two or three years, causing severe shortage of food, resulting in malnutrition, diseases and death. Children and pregnant women are affected the most. There is no proper healthcare facility in the Mithi Civil Hospital where the 32 children have died because of malnutrition. A large number of sheep, camels, cows and goats have died in the arid, rain-dependent district. Scores of peafowl have perished in various villages, but the wildlife department is yet to take any significant step to improve the situation. Reports received from Diplo, Chhachhro, Islamkot, Dahli and Nagarparkar suggest that many poor Thari families were moving to barrage areas, along with their livestock. Relatives of the patients admitted to the hospital in Mithi complained that its administration was not providing medicines and they were forced to buy expensive drugs. "We cannot feed our children, how can we purchase medicines?"

District Health Officer Dr Abdul Jalil Bhurgri told Dawn that 36 children were reported to have died in the Civil Hospital. Twenty-three of them were under five years of age and underweight. The main cause of death was malnutrition.

MPA Dr Mahesh Kumar Malani visited the hospital on Wednesday, along with Tharparkar Deputy Commissioner Makhdoom Aqil-uz-Zaman. Civil Surgeon Dr Jawaharlal told them that shortage of medicines, doctors, paramedics and sanitary workers had added to people's misery. Mr Malani assured the hospital administration that the problems would be solved soon. Although the Sindh government has declared Tharparkar a calamity-hit district, it is yet to take any concrete measure to avert further losses. Its announcement to provide 60,000 wheat bags to the drought-hit people of Thar is yet to materialise. The district administration is reported to have told the relief commissioner that 60,000 wheat bags would not meet the requirement of about 175,000 drought-hit families.

LAHORE: Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has said that Saaf Pani Project is a revolutionary programme of the Punjab government aimed to protect people against diseases. He said, under this project, potable water will be made available to every citizen of the province during next four and a half years. He said a separate company would be set up for the speedy

Pakistan has a month's worth of water left - and 5 percent of its tree cover
The Statesman, March 03, 2014

implementation of the project. He directed that the departments concerned should work in a coordinated manner and warned that no negligence would be tolerated in the execution of this project. He was presiding over a high-level meeting held to review the pace of progress of Saaf Pani Project, here Monday. Addressing the meeting, the chief minister said the provision of safe drinking water to citizens was the government priority as it was essential for saving them from diseases. He said the project had been launched for the supply of potable water to the masses and the project would be executed speedily. He said there was a need for capacity-building of the departments concerned and the 'importance of potable water' would be made a part of syllabus on the pattern of dengue. He said a high standard of work on the project would be ensured and community participation would be acquired for the ownership of filtration plants. He directed that a survey be conducted in the province regarding non-operational water schemes and a report be submitted to him as early as possible. He issued instructions for appointing international consultant for the project. Shahbaz Sharif said a comprehensive system of checks and balances would be evolved for the project.

Earlier, Managing Director NESPAK gave a briefing on Saaf Pani Project while Secretary Housing informed the CM about non-operational water schemes.

Mining:

Shahbaz Sharif has said there are vast opportunities of investment in mining and other sectors in Pakistan. He said a favourable atmosphere for investment had been created in the Punjab province while investors were facilitated on priority basis. He said there were vast reserves of coal in Thar. He said Pakistan was rich in mineral wealth, including coal and South African investors could fully benefit from investment opportunities in mining and other sectors. He was talking to South African High Commissioner in Pakistan Mpendulo Kumalo who met him, here Monday. Matters of mutual interest and the promotion of bilateral relations were discussed in the meeting while it was agreed to promote cooperation in mining and other sectors. The chief minister said there was a need for promoting trade and economic relations between the two countries. He said government wanted to utilise vast coal reserves existing in the country and South Africa could cooperate with Pakistan in mining and economic sectors. He said the government was taking emergent measures for resolving the energy crisis in the country and agreements had been signed with several local and foreign companies for investment in power sector. He said the Punjab government had announced a massive programme of setting up coal-based power projects. He paid tributes to the services of South African leader Nelson Mandela for the promotion of peace and said he was a sagacious leader who made invaluable contributions to peace. The South African High Commissioner said that South Africa was ready to promote cooperation with Pakistan in mining and other sectors and there was a need to promote public liaison between the two countries.

Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the impacts of climate change due to its location, population and environmental degradation. According to a 2013 report from the Asian Development Bank, Pakistan has one month of water supply on hand. The recommended amount is 1,000 days. 80 percent of Pakistan's agriculture relies on irrigation from the overstressed water system. Pakistan's average temperature is expected to increase around 3 degrees Celsius within the next 50 years - this will make food and water challenges even more taxing. A new study published in the journal Nature Climate Change concludes that people are already migrating out of the Pakistan for just these reasons.

The study, which focuses on rural Pakistan, found "that flooding - a climate shock associated with large relief efforts - has modest to insignificant impacts on migration. Heat stress, however - which has attracted relatively little relief - consistently increases the long-term migration of men, driven by a negative effect on farm and non-farm income." It goes on to state that "agriculture suffers tremendously when temperatures are extremely hot wiping out over a third of farming income." For those in Pakistan relying on the large timber industry for their livelihoods, the outlook is also grim. Deforestation is a major problem in Pakistan, with the country only retaining between two and five percent of its tree cover. About 43,000 hectares, or 166 square miles, of forest are cleared annually. According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, this is the highest deforestation rate in Asia. Deforestation is not an easy problem to address. Each of Pakistan's five provinces has its own deforestation laws. There is a strong timber mafia that has a hold over many local and timber officials. And recently a shortage of natural gas for heating and cooking has led to an increase in the country's middle-class cutting down trees for energy use. Pakistan's population has more than quadrupled since it was founded in 1947, and the country now has an estimated 180 million residents. Deforestation contributes to flooding, and in 2010 Pakistan experienced devastating floods after a strong monsoon season that killed around 2,000 people. "There is no doubt that deforestation is threatening the livelihoods of many poor people in our country who depend on the forests for their fuel and livelihood needs," Syed Mohammad Ali, a development consultant, wrote in an op-ed last year. "Deforestation is also blamed for exacerbating the damage caused by natural disasters such as floods and landslides, since the absence of tree cover causes soil erosion and diminishes groundwater absorption. Researchers have also identified deforestation as a major factor behind expansion of the country's heat zone, reduced flow in the Indus River as well as shrinkage of the Indus River Delta."

Municipal effluent deteriorates aquatic habitat at Margalla hills

Daily Dawn, March 03, 2014

In December the World Bank gave Pakistan nearly \$4 million to study deforestation and how to address it. Naeem Ashraf Raja, the director of Pakistan's biodiversity program, told the Washington Post that "officials also hope to convince the United States and other foreign donors to help launch programs to compensate landowners who agree not to cut trees." A report from this week assessing the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) program, a United Nations' effort to create a financial value for the carbon stored in forests, concluded that governments and private entities need to ensure that the proper incentives are in place to achieve long-term sustainability goals. Between 15 and 25 percent of global carbon emissions are attributed to deforestation, more than the entire global transportation sector. The report found that unless more finance is made available for REDD+ projects, the program could become a failure. According to the report, about \$12 billion of investment is needed to ensure REDD+ can deliver a 25 percent reduction in carbon emissions from forests and land-use change by 2020 - short of the original 50 percent reduction goal, but still significant in combating global emissions.

ISLAMABAD: Deteriorated aquatic habitat at Margalla hills due to municipal and industrial effluent from Rawalpindi and Islamabad are a potential threat for upstream migration and breeding of fish 'Tor Putitora'. Large scale extraction of truck loads of sand, gravel and stones from the Margalla hills have destroyed the natural breeding grounds of this famous sports fish.

The Margalla Hills areas of River Soan has been a natural breeding ground for this fish, which breeds in cool waters with gravely stone bed. This fish has been a great natural asset of the Potowar Plateau over the ages. The areas of Margalla, Murree, Kahuta and Lehtrar provide provides natural habitat for the breeding of this Fish, Director Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH) Dr. Muhammad Rafique told APP. He said Fingerlings and fries of this fish were, however, observed in the areas above the Rawal dam, which shows that the fish is still breeding in this area inspite of construction of dams and pollution in River Soan below Dr. Rafique said the population of this fish is however, very low and it seems as if small population is surviving in the area. The fish fauna however is mostly represented in Rawal lake and Shahdara valley nullah. The major commercial fish are only represented in Rawal lake area which forms a buffer zone of Margalla Hills National Park, he said. "The problems like diversion of water bodies, fast pace of construction work, urbanisation, population influx, habitat fragmentation, physical and ecological barriers in migration of fish and pollution due to municipal garbage is very severe in this area". Due to this, the area of River Soan and its tributaries upstream Rawalpindi has been highly disturbed and ecologically changed, Dr. Muhammad Rafique said.

Pollution linked to soaring obesity rates

Daily Dawn, March 01, 2014

PESHAWAR- APP: A team of researchers has found a link between a type of pollutants and certain metabolic complications of obesity. A study by the team of researchers at the IRCM in Montreal led by Remi Rabasa-Lhoret, in collaboration with Jerome Ruzzin from the University of Bergen in Norway, could eventually help improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cardiometabolic risk associated with obesity, such as diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease, Science Daily reported.

Although obesity is strongly linked to insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes, a subset of obese individuals, termed "metabolically healthy but obese", appears relatively protected from the development of such cardiometabolic complications. The researchers are studying the factors that seem to protect obese individuals who remain metabolically healthy, in an attempt to find therapeutic avenues to prevent complications for others who are at risk. "Recently, persistent organic pollutants (POPs) have been found to accelerate the development of prediabetes and obesity in mice, thereby mimicking the unfavourable cardiometabolic profile characteristic of certain obese individuals," Rabasa-Lhoret said.

Nature carnival in capital city on Sunday

Daily Dawn, March 01, 2014

ISLAMABAD: Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF-Pakistan) will organise its annual travelling nature carnival here on Sunday to create awareness regarding environmental issues. The event will be arranged in collaboration with Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC) and Suzuki, aimed at increasing awareness of nature conservation through interactive games and competitions among students, parents and teachers.

Nature Carnival featuring interactive activities and multifaceted programs to convey the underline message among the masses, including an art competition, quiz competition, essay competition, interactive 3D model making competition, magic shows, environmental puppet shows, lucky draw, live music, environmental theater and food stalls. More than 100 schools of capital city will be participating in a thematic 3D models making competition. These project stalls would follow environmental themes in their models and displays such as; Benefits of Trees, Green Neighborhood, Health-Hygiene and Environment, Disaster Management, Illegal Hunting, Environment Management Systems and Watershed management.

WWF is engaged in the conservation of environment and natural habitat across Pakistan while conservation of nature and environmental protection is a primary element of FFC CSR program as well. It has been working on the environmental education for the past two decades and "The Travelling Nature Carnival" is an integral part of its school outreach.

HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION'S IN CLIMATE SECTOR

Action Aid - Pakistan

March 2014

<http://www.actionaid.org/pakistan/>

ActionAid Sponsored Community Schools Regularized

Schools Regularization in Noshki, Balochistan

Children particularly girls to benefit from schools' regularization

In accordance with constitutional provisions under Article 25-A and also in result of long term human rights based advocacy campaign, as many as five community schools in district Noshki, Balochistan have finally been regularized.

Provincial education department has been directed to appoint 22 teachers on new created posts in these schools. The primary data reveals that more than 205 children particularly the girls are studying in these schools which are located in far stretched areas of district Noshki.

ActionAid in partnership with Azat Foundation has been working in district Noshki since 2003. It has now been more than 5 years that ActionAid launched an advocacy campaign to convince the provincial government for regularization of community schools. The community has been in the forefront to run this campaign which has an empowering impact on the people.

After successive consultations, dialogue and protest demonstrations; the government of Balochistan conceded to the demands of people. Interestingly, in the notification issued by the government, efforts of ActionAid and its local partner (Azat Foundation) to provide educational services to these communities were acknowledged.

Human rights based approach of development advocated and followed by ActionAid and its local partners have proved beneficial to many communities across the globe particularly in far off areas of Pakistan. Children have also been prioritized in ActionAid's work anywhere across the country. In schools both public and ActionAid sponsored community schools; children are engaged in the community development projects to make sure that children develop leadership skills.

Concern Worldwide

March, 2014

<https://www.concern.net/where-we-work/asia/pakistan>

Alliance2015

Pakistan was again hit with floods in 2011, 2012 and 2013. In response, Concern Worldwide and its Alliance2015 partners delivered emergency assistance, helping some of the people who needed it most.

Concern-worldwide current joint project is the sixth ECHO-funded emergency relief programme since the 2010 floods. Concern and our Alliance2015 partners are delivering shelter, food and water, sanitation and hygiene assistance to communities still affected by the 2012 floods.

Church World Services Pakistan

March 10, 2014

<http://www.cwspa.org/>

Affirming the Rights of All to Live With Dignity and Justice

A three-day residential camp on Political Education and Human Rights was held for the first time in District Narowal, Punjab for private and government schools. After organizing several camps in Sindh since the year 2003, the political education program of CWS-P/A has not only extended operations in the province of Punjab but also organized several camps in schools of Afghanistan. District Narowal borders India therefore the community comprises of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and Hindus. "We don't talk about the rights of fellow human beings, tolerance and dignity are missing from our lives. If someone has a difference of opinion, we term them an infidel and pass judgment against their lives and well being," shared one of the teachers from Government School Duska.

The training camp provided a platform for fifty students and ten teachers to understand the role of political and civic education in strengthening and developing societies, which have inculcated a sense of responsibility, rule of law, tolerance, peaceful co-existence and volunteerism amongst them. During the three days, sessions were conducted on state and democracy, election process, human and child rights, leadership skills, gender and sex. Students expressed their interest in the election process, balloting and child rights sessions. While discussing child rights, teachers were urged to conduct more trainings for government school teachers as the ratio of corporal punishments is high in the schools of Punjab. The camp also provided an opportunity to participants from diverse backgrounds and ethnicity to develop interfaith and inter-ethnic harmony through its participatory approach.

Drought in Tharparkar adds to Sindh's food plight

ISLAMABAD: In the past three months over 100 children died of pneumonia and other illnesses – an indirect result of severe malnutrition and drought-induced famine in the poverty-stricken district of Tharparkar, in Sindh province. The area was declared "calamity-hit" by the Government of Pakistan, and eight adjoining districts were also issued a red alert last week as a similar situation may surface there.

To prevent the Sindh nutrition crisis from further escalating over the coming months, the Pakistan Emergency Food Security Alliance and ACTED's teams are currently planning an intervention to respond to the emergency. This intervention will combine nutrition feeding programs for malnourished children and mothers, as well as activities to improve access to

ACTED;PAKISTAN

<http://www.acted.org/>

February 24, 2014

WWF-PAKISTAN

www.wwf.org/
March 08, 2014

clean drinking water and latrines, to fight waterborne diseases. It will also ensure that families have access to sufficient food during the inter-harvest hunger gap in Sindh.

Education: Village students to learn more about environment

An agreement is signed by Senior WWF-Pakistan Director Dr Ejaz Ahmed and TCF regional manager Brig Sohail Saleem.

LAHORE: The World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-Pakistan) Green School Programme has partnered with The Citizens Foundation (TCF) for an environmental education initiative, a press release issued on Thursday said.

Initially, through this partnership, environmental education activities will be introduced at a TCF school, located in Lidhar Village. A memorandum of understanding in this regard has been signed by Senior WWF-Pakistan Director Dr Ejaz Ahmed and TCF regional manager Brig Sohail Saleem. The school has 600 students from under privileged families. With the help of WWF-Pakistan, the statement said, these children will get a chance to learn more about environmental issues impacting Pakistan and the rest of the world. This project has been started with help from Mehdi Mohsin, a director at Mitchells. The Green School Programme is an environmental education and awareness campaign that engages students in year around events, activities and skill development workshops. This partnership aims to make the students more environmentally aware and conscious. The participating students will get an opportunity to become official ambassadors of the World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan.

According to the statement, the Green School Programme was launched in 2010. Since then, more than 15,000 students have become a part of the campaign. The programme engages students in events including the World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan Travelling Nature Carnival, Earth Hour and the National Arts Competition. Each year, on Earth Day, thousands of saplings are planted by these students across Pakistan. Students from across Pakistan have also worked on themes such as "Say No to Plastic Bags" and water conservation. Some of these students participate in the Eco-Internship Programme, engaging in nature photography and documentary making.

CLIMATIC PROFILE: DISTRICT MUZZAFARABAD

District at a glance

Muzaffarabad, the capital of the Pakistan Held Jammu & Kashmir. It is situated at the confluence of the Jhelum & Neelum rivers, with an elevation of 701m. The district lies at 32° 44' N latitude and 74° 54' E Longitude, with total area of 1303.058 Sq.km. The District has a total metalled road network of 813 km and an un-metalled network of 758 km.

Demographics

Area Sq.km	Population-million (PC-1998)	Growth rate (PC-1998/million)	House-hold Size (MICS 2007-08)	Projected Population 2012 (million)	District-wise %	Density in 2012 (Person/Sq.km)
1303.058	0.454	2.80%	5.8	0.668	16.08	407

Projected on the basis of 1998 census. Sources: Population Census Organization Islamabad

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Climate/Weather

The mean maximum and minimum temperatures during the month of July are about 35°C and 23°C; and in January 16°C and 3°C respectively. The Neelum river plays a dominant role in the micro-climate of Muzaffarabad. Annual mean amount of rainfall in this area is 1200mm to 1800mm while in winter 30% of precipitation occurs in the form of snow. A recent study depicts that 'Heat waves' has been occurring in the past in Muzaffarabad, however their frequency has been increased in last five years. Recently in July 2012, heat waves touched the city when temperature reached 43°C.

The correlation results between observed and APHRODITE (Asian Precipitation Highly Resolved Observational Data Integration Towards Evaluation) daily data in different decades in this area varies from 0.26 to 0.38. Relatively better correlation results (0.49 to 0.67) were obtained in case of mean monthly datasets analysis.

Throughout the year, the winds blow predominantly from the north or the south-east, but in summer there are short spells of wind from these directions and morning breeze is mostly from the west.

Air Quality

There is no major air quality issue in the Area except for suspended particulate matters, however gaseous emissions from the poorly maintained vehicles create air pollution. Trucks, buses and other passenger vehicles passing on the existing roads are normally poorly maintained.

Analysis of air quality studies gives resultant parameters as shown in Table 1. (Conducted for 24-hour period after selecting sampling locations in areas with settlements, while samples being taken from 5 – 10 meters from the edge of the road).

Table 1. Analysis of Ambient Air Quality

Start Point at Naluchi Bridge (Muzaffarabad)												
Time	CO	SO ₂	NO ₂	PM ₁₀	CO	SO ₂	NO ₂	PM ₁₀	CO	SO ₂	NO ₂	PM ₁₀
	ppm	ppm	ppm	µg/m ³	ppm	ppm	ppm	µg/m ³	ppm	ppm	ppm	µg/m ³
24Hours Average	0.54	<0.01	<0.01	112.5	0.83	<0.01	<0.01	143.8	0.96	<0.01	<0.01	285
USEPA (NAAQS) For 1 Hour average	35	180	70	150'	35	180	70	150'	35	180	70	150'

USEPA (NAAQS) = United States Environmental Protection Agency (National Air Quality Standards) ' 24 hour average (Source:SGS)

One hour average value of CO for all the locations ranges from 0.96 to 0.54 ppm and peak hourly value from 1 to 2 ppm, which is within the permissible limit. One hour average value of SO₂ and NO₂ is below 0.01 ppm. These values are within the permissible limit.

24-hour average values of PM₁₀ at these locations are 112.5, 143.8, and 285 µg/m³ respectively. Due to increase in the traffic with the passage of time, it is estimated that average values of CO, SO₂, NO₂ and PM₁₀ will also increase.

Surface and Groundwater

Muzaffarabad has sufficient water bodies in shapes of streams and river, agricultural fields are irrigated by the rain water. Aquifer sources of groundwater are available in the area. They are an important source of water supply throughout the area with the use of wells, tube wells majorly in the urban areas. Groundwater in the area is generally of good quality and tends to be non-saline. Aquifers are recharged by means of seepage during the rainy season.

Drinking Water

Despite the abundance of water throughout the year in streams and river tributaries, almost all urban centers face water scarcity. Residents of un-served settlements have to rely on unsafe sources, such as rivers, contaminated open wells, springs, and natural streams.

Table2. **Piped Water Supply in Urban Areas of Muzaffarabad**

Urban population (in million)	Houses with in municipal limits (No.)	Houses with Piped water facility (No.)	Piped water facilities in %age
1303.058	0.454	2.80%	5.8

Topography, Geology and Soil

The entire district has an undulating topography, with Neelum River serving as the main source of drainage. The topography is mainly hilly and mountainous, with valleys and some stretches of alluvial plains. The proposed road traverses through the gentle to moderate slope areas inhabited and cultivated by the local people.

Geologically the rocks exposed in the area are mainly sedimentary and meta-sedimentary.

Regarding soil, in the area, soils are residual and colluvial, and their thickness varies in different parts. The valley soils are fertile and alluvial, and are therefore able to support productive agriculture. However, the hilly soils are shallow and prone to erosion.

Ecological Resources: Important Ecosystems/Forest

Regarding internationally important ecosystems, there is neither Ramsar site nor World Heritage site in the district, although the Muzaffarabad has about over 59% of their total area under forest cover.

Seismology

According to the seismic zone map of Pakistan, the Area lies in Zone 1 of Modified Mercalli (M.M.) Intensity Scale 1973, i.e. minor damage, distant earthquakes may cause damage to structures with fundamental period greater than 1.0 second, corresponds to intensity V and VI on the M.M. scale. The area is located in one of the most geologically active terrains in the world. The active fault has the potential to cause future earthquakes and seismic ground motion.

The evidence of above stated 'Seismic character' of the concerned district depicts clearly from the historical Earthquake of 2005 in this area. The Muzaffarabad Earthquake (also known as the Kashmir earthquake) of 2005 was a major seismological disturbance that occurred at 08:50:38 AM Pakistan standard time on October 8, 2005 with its epicenter 19 km northeast of Muzaffarabad. This earthquake with the magnitude of 7.6 Mw making it the deadliest of the Himalayan earthquakes with a death toll of more than 80,000 peoples.

The following tables show the overall damages briefly.

Muzaffarabad, 2005 Earthquake Damages:

Table 3.a: **Deaths/ Injured/ Houses / Affected Forest areas**

Deaths	Injured	Badly affected Forest Area (Ac) of total Forest Area (Ac) 2,18,168	Houses (Uninhabitable) Damaged/ Destroyed
35,803	23,138	1,65,808	146,798

Table 3.b: **Tourism Sector**

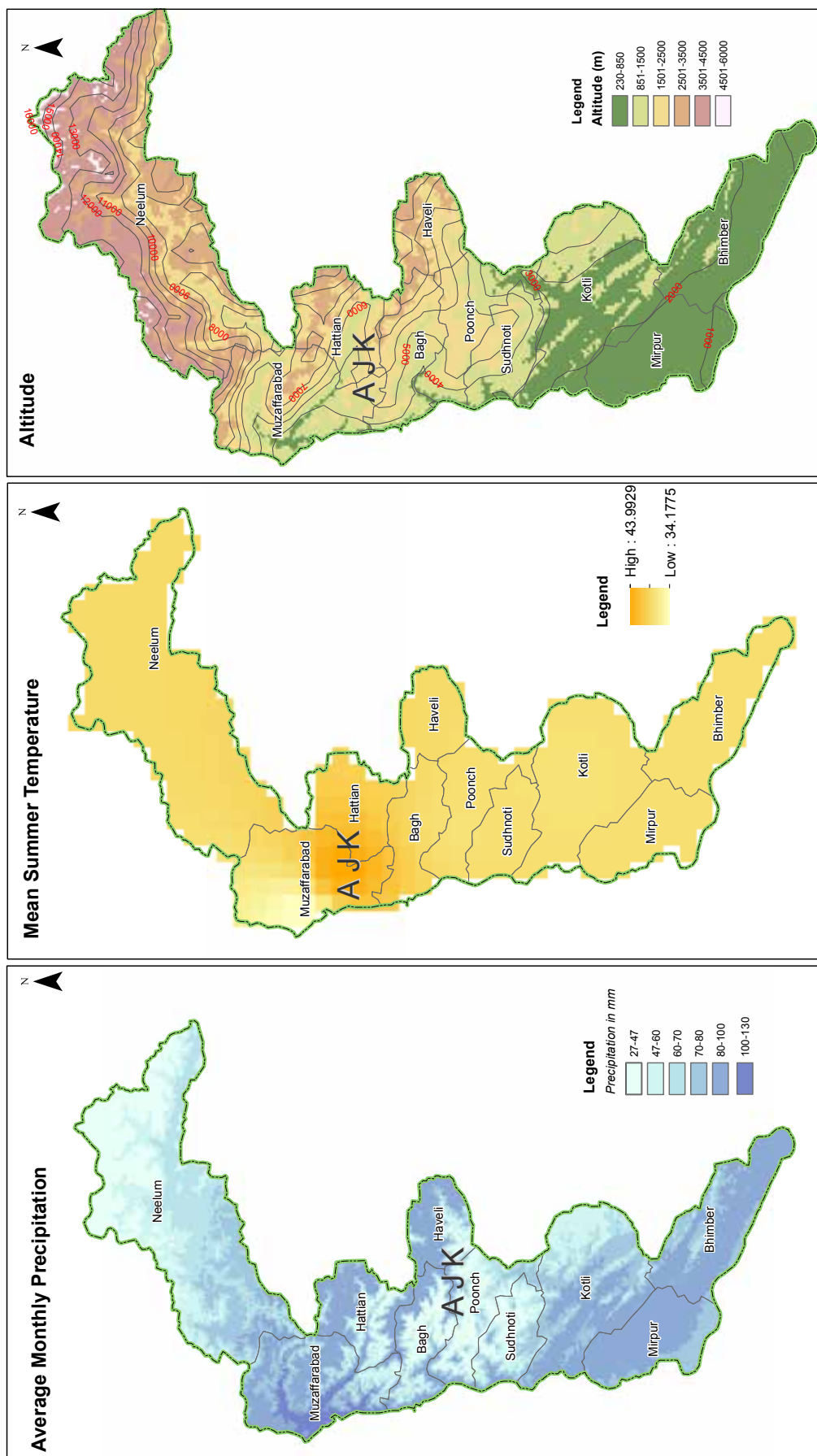
No. of Rest Houses	Damaged	Damaged (Cover area in Sq. m)
35,803	23,138	1,65,808

Source: SERRA Office, Muzaffarabad

References:

1. Numerical climate modeling and verification of selected areas for heat waves of Pakistan using ensemble prediction system
2. Pakistan Journal of Meteorology Vol. 3: Issue 5, June 2006
RECENT SEISMIC ACTIVITY IN MUZAFFARABAD AND ITS SURROUNDING AREAS
3. Pakistan Journal of Meteorology Vol.9, Issue 17: July 2012
Validation of APHRODITE Precipitation Data for Humid and Sub Humid Regions of Pakistan

AZAD JAMMU AND KASHMIR CLIMATE AND TOPOGRAPHY

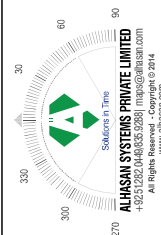


Dataset Source:

PCO: District Boundary
World Climate Data Portal: Precipitation and altitude
PMD: Mean Summer Temperature

Creation Date: Feb 20, 2014
Projection/Datum: WGS84 Geographic
Paper Size: A3

0 12.5 25 50 75 100 Kilometers



Impact of climate change in Pakistan

Rina Saeed Khan

(The writer is an award-winning environmental journalist. She holds an MA in Environment and Development from SOAS in London.)

March 13th, 2014

People don't trust the government to help them respond to climate change. With Pakistan becoming increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, like floods and droughts, a recent BBC Climate Asia Report has found that around 72 per cent of people don't trust the government to help them respond to these challenges. They have no confidence in the government taking action on issues of food, water, energy and extreme weather. Indeed, for the current government, which is battling terrorism and energy shortages, climate change is clearly not a priority and the ambitious National Climate Change Policy that was launched by the previous government in March 2013 has now been shelved.

The Climate Asia Report, which explores how communication can help people adapt to their changing environment, covered seven countries in Asia, including Pakistan. It surveyed the perceptions and experiences of those most affected by the changing weather and environment, including farmers, fishing communities and slum dwellers. The BBC's Media Action team also interviewed policymakers, climate experts and members of the media reporting on climate change at a workshop held in Islamabad in 2012. Groups were made to identify the priority areas when it came to climate change impacts in Pakistan — water was identified as the most important issue. Either there is too much of it (floods) or there is not enough (droughts).

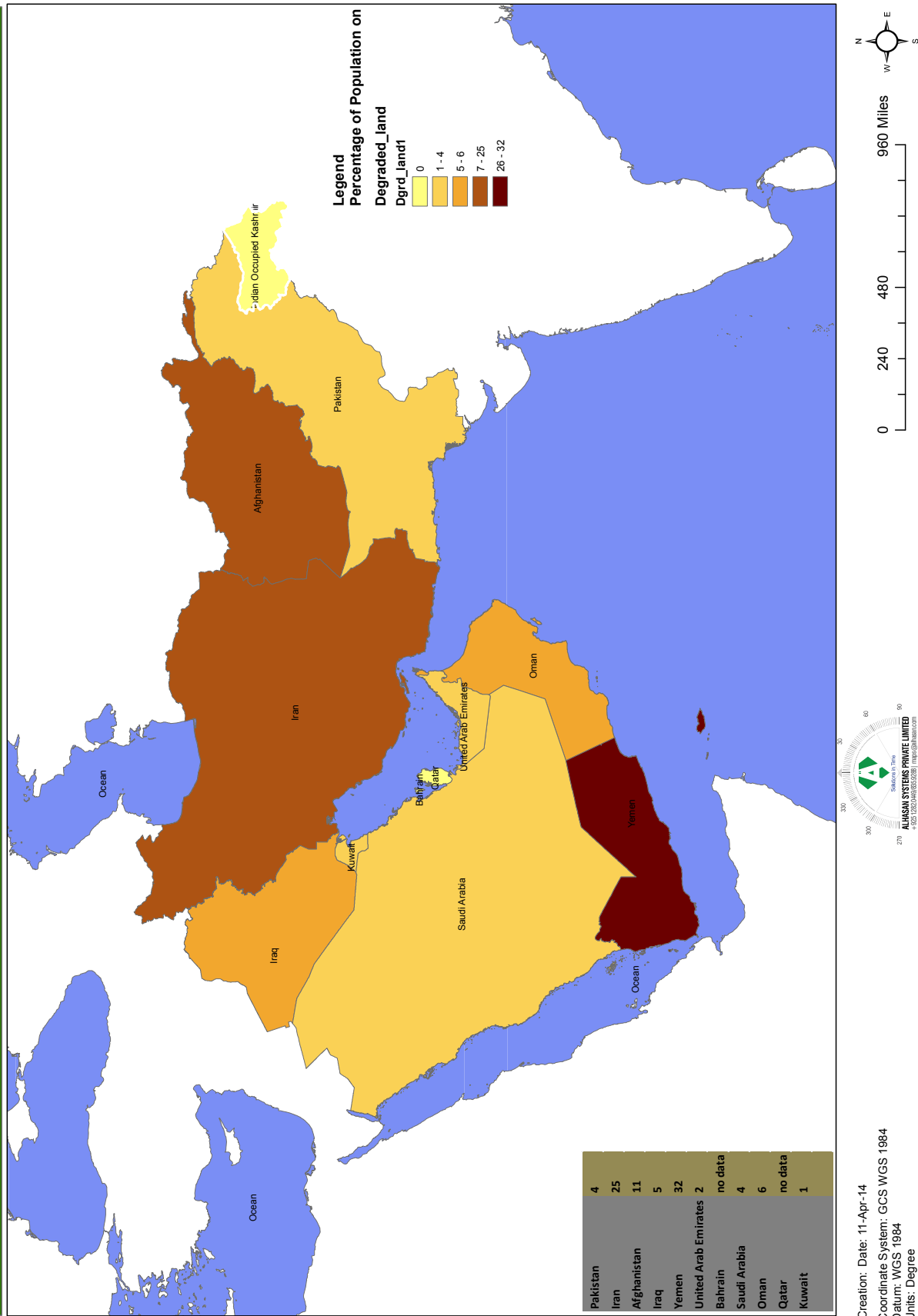
People across Pakistan are now experiencing unpredictable rainfall, increased temperatures and changes to the seasons. Other changes vary by region, such as increased rainfall and extreme weather events in

Sindh and decreased rainfall in Balochistan. The Climate Asia Report found that compared with the other countries in this study, Pakistanis feel most strongly that these changes are having a high level of impact on their lives now (there were around 4,000 respondents to the survey in Pakistan).

Some of the most striking findings were those around decreasing access to basic resources such as water and fuel. Around 82 per cent of the people said resource availability is decreasing in electricity; 47 per cent said it is decreasing in fuel; 47 per cent said it is decreasing in water and 28 per cent said it is reducing in crop reduction. Almost everyone surveyed said that rain has either increased or decreased over the past 10 years — very few said that the weather has stayed the same. There was an overall feeling of doom and gloom; in fact, 54 per cent of the people think life has become worse in recent years.

The study found that those communities that felt informed about their environment were best able to cope with extreme weather. However, those without access to resources, relevant information or community support said that they felt helpless. The Climate Asia Report has come up with a range of ideas on how to help communicate climate change issues: "With very high levels of TV viewership and rising mobile phone use, there are opportunities to provide these audiences with information on coping with resource shortages and seasonal changes through drama serial, discussion shows and SMS alerts."

POPULATION LIVING ON DEGRADED LAND



Lessons from Tharparkar

I.A. REHMAN

(Daily Dawn, March 13th, 2014)

THE invasion of Tharparkar district by rich donors and relief convoys should not divert attention from the need for long-term answers to the grave problems faced, seasonally or permanently, by the people in the region.

The outrage that has been displayed at images of children in the throes of death is understandable but this outpouring of grief and anger will be meaningless if remedial action is not taken.

There is no doubt that the response to the humanitarian challenge from state agencies and civil society organisations both has been prompt and ample. The confusion caused by sensationalised reporting, ill-informed commentators, and attempts to make political capital out of people's misery has been considerably dispelled by well-informed, non-state observers.

It is clearer than before that the population of parts of the Tharparkar district has had three misfortunes: first, the drought this year has been severer than in the past few years; secondly, the cold spell has been unusually long and intense; and third, arrangements for the access of affected communities to food and medical aid have been inadequate and dysfunctional.

Nature cannot be blamed for all these factors. That successive droughts cause an incremental increase in water scarcity may be a natural phenomenon but the people have traditionally overcome it by seasonal migration. The cold spell affected children because the health cover was inadequate, and the havoc caused by the administration's failures is entirely man-made.

A large number of families in Thar dealt with the situation as they have always done — they moved to other parts of Sindh where they could find water, grazing fields for their cattle, and even opportunities for casual work. (Incidentally, media reports suggest that an equal number of families — 175,000 — migrated from Thar and Cholistan desert this year.) It seems those who did not have reason to migrate have suffered the most.

With the change of season the child mortality rate is likely to decline and migrants will return to their homes and, as Dr Khangharani, the doyen of Thar experts, says all stories of death and malnutrition will be forgotten.

The issue is whether the cycle of drought, migration and symptomatic, short-term relief will be allowed to continue. If the government has the requisite will it should not be impossible to address the causes of the people's suffering year after year.

The first task is to overcome the 'famine of facts', to borrow an admirable phrase from Mr Javed Jabbar. We do not know to what extent the seasonal migration is documented but from now on it should be necessary to have authentic records of the exodus and return of drought-affected communities.

An important cause of the migration is lack of fodder for livestock that constitutes most of the affected people's sole economic wealth. Will the supply of fodder from outside and an efficient network of veterinary services reduce the extent of dislocation?

In all disaster stories a lack of efficient communication, transport and monitoring systems has often been noted. Reports of an impending famine in Thar had started coming in December 2013. Were these reports shared with the authorities concerned? If they were, how did the disaster management agencies respond? Could the existence of local government institutions make a difference?

Common sense demands that measures to protect the population of Tharparkar (or Cholistan, for that matter) should be an integral part of the development plan for the region. The money spent on setting a national record for the highest number of school buildings (which is different from having functional schools) in the district could have been better used for promoting food security and healthcare.

Tharparkar and the adjoining districts need special attention of development and community welfare agencies in view of their sizeable non-Muslim population. Media reports are silent on how the non-Muslim citizens, particularly those still categorised as scheduled castes, have fared during the latest calamity but one should like to be reassured that they have suffered no more than their Muslim neighbours. The reason for this concern is the fact that non-Muslims do not have equal access to the medical services and income support facilities in the region.

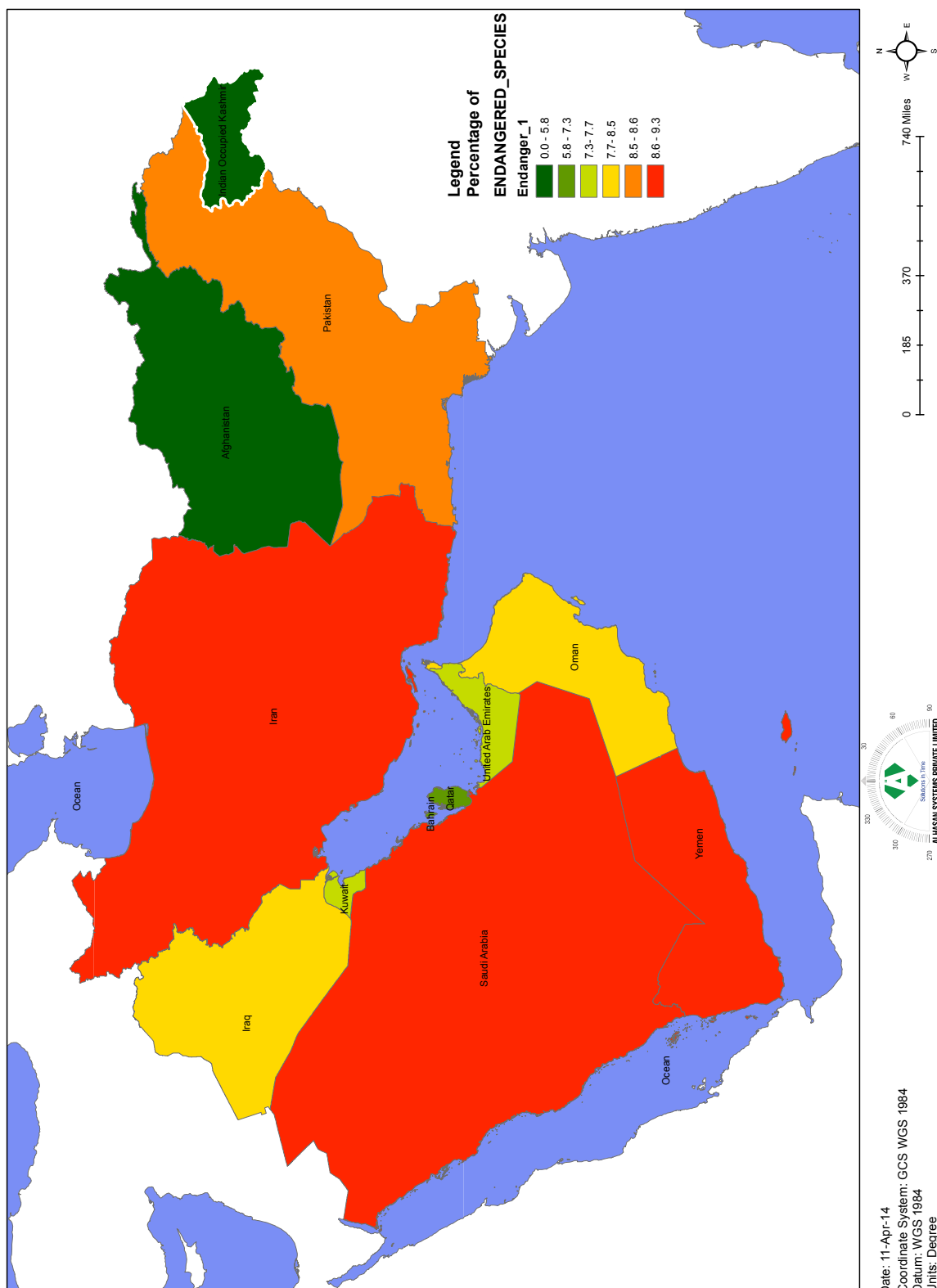
While every effort should be made to streamline the existing administrative structure, two steps have become necessary to remove the causes of the disadvantaged community's suffering. First, the people must be given their due share in the management of their affairs. All parts of Pakistan urgently need democratic and efficient local government, and Thar, Cholistan, Kalash, Fata and Pata need it more than others.

Secondly, in spite of the government's irrational hostility to state-sponsored socio-economic development, a high-powered organisation must be created to undertake essential works in underdeveloped areas of the country. In Thar this body could build food and fodder reserves, remove infrastructure deficiencies, upgrade veterinary services and broaden the scope for people's economic activity.

This will reduce poverty which is one of the basic causes of famine and high rates of child and female mortality and ill-health. It will be good if this body has a special department for the protection and promotion of the rights of the indigenous populations who at the moment figure nowhere on the development map.

It is not good politics to shed tears when children die and ignore how they live and dole out fat cheques when a calamity hits the poor. The only worthwhile action can be to give all children hope in their future. Time to begin doing that.

PROPORTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES (ANIMALS)



The changing monsoons

RINA SAEED KHAN

(Daily Dawn) March 02, 2014

The Asian summer monsoon, which brings heavy rainfall from June to September across China, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, etc. affects almost two thirds of humanity. Today, scientists are worried about how climate change will impact Asia's life-sustaining monsoons, which control the seasonal alternation of wet and dry periods. Scientists are already pointing out that climate change is making the monsoons more erratic.

The region's economy is based largely upon agriculture, so changes in the strength and path of the Asian monsoon can be disastrous. Since the Asian monsoon is critical to the agriculture, water resources and the economy of Pakistan, understanding the variability of the monsoon and prediction is vital for the wellbeing of the country. Hence, last month the newly formed Centre for Climate Research and Development (CCRD) at the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad organised an international conference on "Asian Monsoon and Climate Change" in the capital. The conference was organised in association with the prestigious Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany and the International Centre for Climate and Environment Sciences in China (ICCES-China).

"It was actually an Asian and European meeting held in Islamabad to discuss the monsoon system," explained retired Ambassador Shahid Kamal, who is currently helping the CCRD as an Advisor to the Comsats Institute. The conference was attended by a large number of leading scientists and researchers from countries like Germany, India, Malaysia, Bangladesh, China, Iran, Italy, Malaysia, Nepal, Russia, USA and Pakistan and provided a platform for scientific discussions on the variability of the monsoon and its relationship with the changing climate system.

The conference also highlighted the work of the CCRD, which is working in a trans-disciplinary manner, building on the knowledge of Comsats various departments and collaborating with the Potsdam Institute and the ICCES in Beijing. "The CCRD will start classes this year in climate sciences so we are looking forward to that; we would like to contribute to the debate on climate change in Pakistan by developing scientific skills and capacity and reaching out to policy making departments," explained Kamal.

At the inaugural session of the two-day conference, the chief guest, Federal Minister for Science and Technology Zahid Hamid, emphasised the importance of climate change as a global issue. Today Pakistan faces five major risks related to climate change: rise in sea level, glacial retreats, floods, higher average temperatures and more frequent droughts.

The Director of ICCES-China, Prof. Zhaohui Lin, highlighted its longstanding cooperation with international organisations like Comsats. The Head of International Cooperation, PIK-Germany, Prof. Dr Jürgen P. Kropp, noted that climate change is a constant phenomenon that influences human lives, especially in terms of water and food security, agricultural yield and energy production, among others. Due to the recent developments in climate sciences, projections on complex climatic phenomena are now possible. Dr Kropp called for spreading greater awareness amongst the stakeholders so they can take informed decisions.

The technical talks of the conference focused on the impact of climate change and monsoon variability on extreme weather events, urban drainage systems, food security, biodiversity and water resources. Various factors influencing the anomalous variations in rainfall patterns, their effects and possible predictive models were also deliberated upon. According to Ghulam Rasul, the chief meteorologist of Pakistan, "Summer monsoon is the major source of water in Pakistan, which is almost double in the northern half as compared to the southern half. During the last two decades, occurrence of heavy downpours as well as shift in temporal and spatial distribution of monsoon precipitation has been noticed. Future climate projections suggest that the summer monsoon in Pakistan is going to be highly variable over time and space embedded with extreme events giving rise to flash floods, riverine floods and urban floods. The impact of climate change will be more pronounced and visible on water resources as they would send shock waves to all the socioeconomic sectors, shattering water, food and energy security."

The meeting highlighted that the Asian monsoon has a critical influence on the climate system of the region and affects more than 60 per cent of the world's population. There is today an urgent need to build climate resilience and more work is needed on climate vulnerability, adaptation and disaster risk management. The participating scientists resolved to promote linkages to advance research on climate change and develop further collaborations with the CCRD.

At the concluding ceremony, the French ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Mr Philippe Thiébaud, called for more scientific and diplomatic interactions on issues related to climate change. France will be hosting the UN Climate Change Conference 2015 in Paris where it is hoped that a global treaty curbing carbon emissions (which are causing climate change) will be agreed upon by countries signatory to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

سرخیاں

تفصیلات

پاکستان سمیت دنیا کے 154 ممالک میں ارتھ

آور منایا گیا

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

30 مارچ 2014

مانسہرہ، بنگرام، کوہستان اور گردونواح میں

زلزلہ، شدت 4.1 تھی

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

28 مارچ 2014

پاکستان اور یورپی یونین کا توانائی، ماحولیاتی تبدیلی،
اعلیٰ تعلیم کے شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے پر اتفاق

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

27 مارچ 2014

پانی کا عالمی دن منایا گیا، 2050ء تک طلب 55

فیصد بڑھ جائیگا: اقوام متحدہ

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

23 مارچ 2014

لاہور، اسلام آباد (خصوصی رپورٹر، سٹاف رپورٹر، نیوز ایجنسیاں) پاکستان سمیت دنیا کے 154 ممالک میں ارتھ آور منایا گیا۔ قومی اسمبلی، سینٹ سمیت چاروں صوبائی اسمبلیوں اور ملک کی اہم عمارتوں پر غیر ضروری لائنس بند کر کے ارتھ آور منایا گیا۔ ارتھ آور کی تقاریب میں وفاقی و صوبائی وزراء سمیت حکام نے شرکت کی۔ ارتھ آور کا آغاز 2007ء میں آسٹریلیا میں شروع ہوا۔ اس کا مقصد دنیا میں جاری بجلی کے بحران کے متعلق عوام میں شعور و آگاہی پیدا کرنا ہے تاکہ وہ غیر ضروری لائنس بند کر کے اس مہم میں بڑھ چڑھ کر حصہ لیں۔ قرشی یونیورسٹی میں تقریب میں ہزاروں افراد نے شرکت کی۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ ارتھ ہاور کو پنجاب اسمبلی میں بھی نہایت جوش و خروش سے منایا گیا جہاں اسمبلی کی لائنس کورٹ 8:30 سے 9:30 کے درمیان بند کیا گیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ آفس پنجاب اسمبلی اور تمام اہم عمارتوں کی روشنیاں ایک گھنٹہ تک بند رکھی گئیں۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے اس موقع پر کہا زمین سے محبت اور اس کا تحفظ ہر شہری کا فرض ہے اور اسی مقصد کی اہمیت کو اجاگر کرنے کے لئے صوبے بھر میں ارتھ آور ڈے منایا گیا ہے۔

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹر) مانسہرہ، بنگرام، کوہستان اور گردونواح میں زلزلے کے جھٹکے محسوس کئے گئے ہیں، زلزلہ کا مرکز بٹگرام میں دس کلومیٹر گہرائی میں تھا۔ زلزلے کے جھٹکے مانسہرہ، بنگرام، کوہستان، گردونواح اور اس سے ملحقہ علاقوں میں بھی محسوس کئے گئے۔ محکمہ موسمیات کے مطابق زلزلے کی شدت ریکٹر سکیل پر 4.1 ریکارڈ کی گئی جبکہ زلزلہ کا مرکز بٹگرام میں دس کلومیٹر گہرائی میں تھا۔

اسلام آباد (ثناء نیوز) یورپی یونین نے پاکستان میں جمہوری اداروں اور قانون کی عملداری کے لئے مکمل تعاون کی یقین دہانی کرائی ہے جبکہ پاکستان اور یورپی یونین نے توانائی، ماحولیاتی تبدیلی، تحقیق اور اعلیٰ تعلیم کے شعبوں میں دوطرفہ تعاون مضبوط بنانے پر اتفاق کیا ہے۔ سٹریٹجک مذاکرات کے دوران افغانستان، بھارت، مشرق وسطیٰ اور یوکرائن سمیت عالمی علاقائی امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ برسلز میں پاکستان اور یورپی یونین کے سٹریٹجک مذاکرات کے بعد جاری مشترکہ اعلامیہ کے مطابق پاکستان اور یورپی یونین کے سٹریٹجک مذاکرات کا دوسرا دورہ یورپی یونین کی خارجہ امور سیکورٹی پالیسی کی نمائندہ کیمپنٹھریٹیشنز اور وزیر اعظم کے مشیر خارجہ برائے قومی سلامتی و امور خارجہ سر تاج عزیز نے مذاکرات میں شرکت کی۔ دونوں طرف سے 2012ء میں پاکستان اور یورپی یونین کے درمیان شروع کیے گئے شراکت داری کے پانچ سالہ تعاون کے منصوبے میں ہونے والی پیشرفت کو سراہا گیا۔ اعلامیہ میں کہا گیا کہ پاکستان اور یورپی یونین کے تعلقات جتنے مضبوط ہیں اس سے پہلے کبھی نہ تھے۔ اجلاس میں پاکستان میں 2013ء کے شفاف انتخابات کے ذریعے تاریخی جمہوری انتقال اقتدار کو سراہا گیا۔ یورپی یونین کی نمائندہ نے یورپی یونین کے انتخابی مبصر مشن پر روشنی ڈالی۔ مشیر خارجہ سر تاج عزیز نے جی ایس پی پلس سکیم میں پاکستان کو شامل کرنے پر یورپی یونین کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ اس بات پر اتفاق کیا گیا کہ جی ایس پی پلس کا درجہ پاکستان کی ترقی اور روزگاری فراہمی میں اہم کردار ادا کرے گا جس سے ترقی اور روزگورنس کے مقاصد کے حصول میں آسانی ہوگی۔ سر تاج عزیز نے ملک میں خواتین، بچوں اور اقلیتوں سمیت انسانی حقوق کے تحفظ کے لئے حکومت کی طرف سے اٹھائے گئے اقدامات پر روشنی ڈالی۔ اس موقع پر جی ایس پی پلس کے حوالے سے اقوام متحدہ کے کنونشن پر موثر عملدرآمد کے لیے بات چیت اور تعاون کو جاری رکھنے پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔ سر تاج عزیز نے پاکستان میں سلامتی کی صورتحال اور نئی داخلی سلامتی پالیسی کے بارے میں آگاہ کیا۔ یورپی یونین کی نمائندہ نے امن و استحکام کے قیام کے لیے پاکستان کی کوششوں کی تعریف کی۔ اجلاس میں معیشت، توانائی، تجارت اور نقل مکانی کے حوالے سے معاملات زیر غور آئے۔ مشیر خارجہ نے غربت کے خاتمے، پینے کے صاف پانی اور دور دراز اور بارانی علاقوں میں آبپاشی کے لیے تعاون کی ضرورت پر زور دیا۔ پاکستان اور یورپی یونین کے مشترکہ کمیشن کا آئندہ اجلاس جون میں ہو گا جبکہ یہ بھی فیصلہ کیا گیا کہ پاکستان اور یورپی یونین کے سٹریٹجک مذاکرات کا تیسرا دورہ 2015ء میں پاکستان میں ہو گا۔

اسلام آباد (ثناء نیوز) پاکستان سمیت دنیا بھر میں پانی کا دن منایا گیا، اس موقع پر مختلف تقریبات کا اہتمام کیا گیا۔ اقوام متحدہ کے ادارے یونیسکو کی ذیلی تنظیم ورلڈ واٹر ڈویلپمنٹ بورڈ نے اکتشاف کیا ہے کہ 2050ء تک عالمی سطح پر پانی کی طلب میں 55 فیصد اضافہ ہو جائے گا۔ اسی عرصے میں پانی کی طلب میں اضافے کے بعد اب سے تیس پینتیس برسوں بعد زمین کی کل آبادی کا 40 فیصد حصہ پانی کے شدید دباؤ کا سامنا کرے گا۔ پانی کے شدید دباؤ والے ملک شمالی افریقہ، مشرق وسطیٰ اور جنوبی ایشیا میں ہوں گے۔ واٹر بورڈ کے مطابق براعظم ایشیا کے کئی ملکوں کے عوام اگلی تین چار دہائیوں کے بعد پانی کے حصول میں شدید مشکلات کا سامنا کر سکتے ہیں اور کئی علاقوں میں پانی کے حصول کی وجہ سے پیدا شدہ تنازعات سنگین ہو جائیں گے۔ ادھر پانی کے عالمی دن کے موقع پر اقوام متحدہ کی جانب سے ایک خصوصی رپورٹ کا اجرا کیا گیا ہے۔ اس رپورٹ کے مطابق ترقی پذیر اقوام کے معاشروں کو کمزور اقتصادیات اور بڑھتی آبادی کے دوہرے دباؤ کا سامنا ہے اور اس کی وجہ سے ان ملکوں کے عوام کے لئے پینے کے صاف پانی کا حصول اور توانائی تک رسائی ایک مشکل امر ہو جا رہا ہے۔ یونائیٹڈ نیشنز یونیورسٹی کے ٹوکیو کمپیس میں عالمی موسمیاتی ادارے کے سربراہ میچل ڈارڈ نے بتایا کہ کرہ ارض پر 768 بلین

افراد کو پینے کے صاف پانی تک رسائی حاصل نہیں اور وہ آلودہ پانی پینے پر مجبور ہیں۔

اسلام آباد (ثناء نیوز) اقوام متحدہ نے کہا ہے کہ تھرپاکر میں خوراک کی کمی کو دور کرنے کے لیے فوری طور پر مزید ایک کروڑ 17 لاکھ ڈالر سے زائد فنڈز کی ضرورت ہے پاکستان میں خوراک کی خاموشی ایمر جنسی کی شکل اختیار کر گئی ہے۔ تھرپاکر میں خوراک کی کمی کے بحران پر ترقیاتی منصوبوں کے ذریعے قابو پایا جاسکتا ہے۔ اقوام متحدہ کی طرف سے جاری رپورٹ کے مطابق تھرپاکر میں خوراک کی کمی کو دور کرنے کے لیے فوری طور پر مزید فنڈز کی ضرورت ہے قحط سے متاثرہ علاقے میں مضبوط ترقی کے ذریعے خوراک کی کمی کے بحران پر قابو پایا جاسکتا ہے۔ اقوام متحدہ کے ادارے یونسف، ورلڈ فوڈ آرگنائزیشن، عالمی ادارہ صحت اور فوڈ اینڈ ایگریکلچر آرگنائزیشن اور اس کے دوسرے اداروں تھرپاکر میں امدادی سرگرمیوں میں مصروف ہیں۔ تھرپاکر اور اس کے ملحقہ اضلاع میں 13 لاکھ افراد میں خوراک کی کمی کو دور کرنے کے لیے ایک سال کے لیے ایک کروڑ 17 لاکھ ڈالر سے زائد فنڈز کی ضرورت ہے۔ اقوام متحدہ کے مطابق اقوام متحدہ اور اس کے ادارے صوبہ سندھ میں خوراک کی کمی کو دور کرنے کے لیے 2010ء سے مدد کر رہے ہیں۔ 17 لاکھ بچوں اور 8 لاکھ حاملہ خواتین کو مختلف خوراک، صحت اور دیگر اقدامات کے ذریعے مدد فراہم کی گئی ہے۔ اقوام متحدہ کے پروگرام کے تحت مزید 44 مقامات پر تھرپاکر کے لوگوں کو خوراک کی کمی دور کرنے کے لیے مدد فراہم کی جائے گی۔ اس منصوبے میں صحت، خوراک کی کمی دور کرنے، موبیٹیو کے علاج و معالجے، موبیٹیو کی خوراک اور ویکسینیشن کی سہولیات دی جائیں گی۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق یہ امداد حکومت پاکستان کی طرف سے اٹھائے گئے اقدامات کا ایک جزو ہے جس کے تحت گزشتہ چھ ماہ کے دوران 15 سو ٹن خوراک تقسیم شامل ہے جس میں گندم، چاول اور 22 لاکھ موبیٹیو کو حفاظتی نیٹکے لگائے گئے ہیں۔ اقوام متحدہ کے کوارڈینیٹر ٹمپوکالا کے مطابق 2011ء میں کیے گئے سروے کے مطابق پاکستان پانچ سال کی عمر سے کم 44 فیصد بچے جسمانی کمزوری کا شکار ہیں۔ 32 فیصد وزن کی کمی اور 15 فیصد مکمل خوراک کی کمی کا شکار ہیں۔ تھرپاکر میں بچوں کی اموات کی وجہ جسمانی کمزوری اور خوراک کی کمی ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ مارچ 2014ء کے شروع میں تھرپاکر کے علاقے میں بڑے پیمانے پر خوراک کی کمی کا شکار افراد ہسپتالوں میں داخل ہوئے اور بچوں کی اموات میں اضافہ ہوا جبکہ 2013ء کی رپورٹ کے مطابق میں بچے خوراک کی کمی کا شکار ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں خوراک کی کمی (نیوٹریشن) ایک خاموش ایمر جنسی کی شکل اختیار کر گئی ہے جس کے لیے فوری طور پر اقدامات اٹھانے کی ضرورت ہے اس وقت تک صورتحال بہتر نہیں ہوگی جب تک ابتدائی وجوہات کا خاتمہ نہیں کیا جائے گا۔

لاہور (سٹاف رپورٹر) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب محمد شہباز شریف کی ہدایت پر تھرپاکر کے خشک سالی کے شکار متاثرہ علاقوں میں امدادی سامان کی فراہمی کا عمل متواتر جاری ہے۔ پراونشل ڈیزاسٹر مینجمنٹ اتھارٹی پنجاب نے اب تک 100 ملین روپے مائیت کی خوراک اور پانی کے 98 ٹرکوں کے ذریعے تھرپاکر کے قحط سے متاثرہ علاقوں کے متاثرین میں تقسیم کئے جا چکے ہیں۔ اب تک متاثرین کو مہیا کئے گئے سامان کا کل وزن 971 ٹن ہے۔ اس ام کا انٹیمپٹ ریلیف کمشنر پنجاب ندیم اشرف نے گزشتہ روز محکمہ اجلاس سے خطاب کے دوران کیا۔

کراچی (واقعہ نگار) سپریم کورٹ نے کہا ہے کہ اقوام متحدہ کی وارننگ کے باوجود تھرپاکر میں قحط سے نمٹنے کے اقدامات کیوں نہ ہوئے؟ عدالت کو بتایا جائے کہ تھرپاکر میں قحط سے نمٹنے کیلئے حکومت سندھ نے کیا اقدامات کئے۔ چیف سیکرٹری سندھ اور سیکرٹری صحت نے رپورٹ عدالت میں جمع کرادی۔ سیکرٹری اقبال درانی نے عدالت کو بتایا کہ تھرپاکر میں قحط زدہ علاقوں میں 24 ڈاکٹروں کو تعینات کیا گیا تھا، جن میں صرف 8 ڈاکٹروں نے فرائض انجام دیئے باقی ڈاکٹروں کو شوکاژ نوٹس جاری کر دیئے گئے ہیں۔ عدالت نے حکم دیا کہ تھرپاکر میں قحط سالی کے اسباب اور ان اسباب سے نمٹنے کے لیے طویل المدتی اقدامات کے حوالے سے عدالت کو آگاہ کیا جائے۔ عدالت نے چیف سیکرٹری سندھ کو ہدایت کی وہ مصلحتوں کا شکار نہ ہوں اور قومی فریضہ سمجھتے ہوئے تھرپاکر کے قحط زدہ علاقوں میں اپنے فرائض انجام دیں۔ جسٹس خلیجی عارف حسین نے ریمارکس دیئے کہ حکومت کی جانب سے بلا جواز رپورٹس سامنے آ رہی ہیں کہ تھرپاکر کے علاقے میں اقوام متحدہ اور دیگر این جی او کی جانب سے پہلے آگاہ نہیں کیا گیا تھا۔ جبکہ حکومتی عہدیداروں کی جانب سے آنے والے بیانات سے ظاہر ہوتا ہے کہ ہر سال ان علاقوں میں ایسی ہی صورت حال ہوتی ہے۔ اگر ایسا ہی ہے تو حکومت مستقل طور پر اقدامات کیوں نہیں کرتی ہے۔ چیف جسٹس نے کہا کہ تھرپاکر میں قحط کے حالات کیوں پیدا ہوئے؟ یہ کہنا کافی نہیں ہے کہ سب اللہ کی مرضی سے ہوا اور اس علاقے میں بارش نہیں ہوئی۔ انہوں نے چیف سیکرٹری سندھ کو مخاطب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ جس نظام میں آپ موجود ہیں، ہمیں معلوم ہے کہ آپ کچھ نہیں کر سکتے لیکن آپ کو اپنا کردار ادا کرنا ہوگا۔ سیکرٹری صحت اقبال درانی نے بتایا کہ سرکاری ہسپتالوں میں تعینات ہونے والے ڈاکٹر کراچی اور حیدر آباد سے آگے نہیں جانا چاہتے۔ عدالت نے کہا کہ سندھ میں ایم بی بی ایس ڈاکٹروں کے لیے آخری 6 ماہ میں کیونٹی سرویسز کے تحت تھرپاکر میں ڈیوٹی لازمی قرار دی جائے۔ ہر ڈاکٹر کے لیے لازمی قرار دیا جائے کہ اس کا ڈیوٹی سائیکل جس ضلع کا ہے کہ وہ وہاں کم سے کم تین سال ڈیوٹی دے۔

اسلام آباد (کن لائن) پاکستان سمیت دنیا بھر میں جنگلات کا دن آج جمعہ کو منایا جائے گا۔ اس دن کے منانے کا مقصد عوام کو جنگلات کی اہمیت کے متعلق شعور اجاگر کرنا ہے

تھرپاکر میں فوری طور پر ایک کروڑ 17 لاکھ ڈالر سے زائد فنڈز کی ضرورت ہے، اقوام متحدہ
سادتھ ایشین نیوز ایجنسی (ثناء)

22 مارچ 2014

ڈیزاسٹر مینجمنٹ اتھارٹی پنجاب کی جانب سے 10 کروڑ روپے کی خوراک اور پانی تھرپاکر کے متاثرین میں تقسیم کیا جا چکا ہے: چیف ریلیف کمشنر

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

22 مارچ 2014

اقوام متحدہ کی وارننگ کے باوجود تھرپاکر میں قحط سے نمٹنے کے اقدامات کیوں نہیں ہوئے: چیف جسٹس

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

21 مارچ 2014

پاکستان سمیت دنیا بھر میں جنگلات کا دن آج منایا جائیگا

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

21 مارچ 2014

سوات اور غدر سمیت دیگر علاقوں میں

زلزلہ، شدت 5.3 ریکارڈ کی گئی

ساؤتھ ایشین نیوز ایجنسی (شام)

20 مارچ 2014

ڈیم نہ بنائے تو فوڈ سیوری خطرے میں پڑ جائیگی:

احسن اقبال

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

19 مارچ 2014

پشاور (شام نیوز) سوات اور غدر سمیت دیگر علاقوں میں زلزلے کے جھٹکے محسوس کئے گئے جس کی شدت 5.3 ریکارڈ کی گئی۔ زلزلہ پیما مرکز کے مطابق سوات اور غدر سمیت مالاکنڈ اور بلتستان ڈویژن کے مختلف علاقوں میں بدھ کی صبح سویرے زلزلے کے جھٹکے محسوس کئے گئے۔ ریکٹر اسکیل پر زلزلے کی شدت 5.3 ریکارڈ کی گئی۔ زلزلے کا مرکز افغان تاجکستان سرحدی علاقہ تھا اور اس کی گہرائی 112 کلومیٹر ریکارڈ کی گئی۔ زلزلے سے لوگوں میں شدید خوف و ہراس پھیل گیا اور وہ گھروں سے نکل کر کھلی جگہوں پر جا بیٹھے۔ زلزلے سے کچے مکانات کی دیواروں میں دراڑیں پڑ گئیں تاہم کسی جانی نقصان کی اطلاع موصول نہیں ہوئی۔

لاہور (خصوصی رپورٹر + ایجنسیاں) وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی و ترقیات احسن اقبال نے کہا ہے حکومت نے ویژن 2025ء کے تحت معاشی ایجنڈا تشکیل دیدیا ہے اور اس پر عمل پیرا ہونے سے پاکستان اب آگے بڑھ رہا ہے۔ توانائی بحران ختم کرنے کیلئے ترجیحی بنیادوں پر کام کیا جا رہا ہے، فوجیوں کو آسان شرائط پر قرضے دیئے جا رہے ہیں۔ وہ گزشتہ روز مقامی ہوٹل میں تیسری سالانہ ساؤتھ ایشین کانفرنس سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔ احسن اقبال نے مزید کہا پاکستان کو پانی کا بہت بڑا چیلنج درپیش ہے۔ ڈیم نہ بنائے گئے تو فوڈ سیوری بھی خطرے میں پڑ جائیگی۔ احسن اقبال نے مزید کہا جب ہم 2018 میں عوام کے سامنے جائیں گے تو سابق حکمرانوں کی طرح شرمندہ نہیں ہوں گے۔ اس موقع پر انٹرنیشنل گرو تھ سینٹر کے کنفری ڈائریکٹر اعجاز نبی، آئی جی سی کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر جونا تھن لپ بھی موجود تھے۔ کانفرنس میں مختلف ممالک کے وفد بھی شریک ہیں۔ موجودہ حکومت کے اقدامات سے معیشت میں تیزی کا سلسلہ رک گیا ہے اور بہتری کے آثار تمام شعبوں میں دیکھے جاسکتے ہیں۔ مہنگائی میں کمی اور روپے کی قدر میں استحکام حکومتی پالیسی کی وجہ سے آیا ہے۔ بجلی کے بحران پر قابو پانے کی ہر ممکن کوشش کی جا رہی ہے جس کے باعث پچھلے سال کی نسبت بہتری آئی ہے۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ چین کے ساتھ 22 ہزار میگا واٹ کے معاہدے کئے گئے ہیں اور 4 سال میں بجلی نیشنل گریڈ سسٹم میں شامل ہو جائیگی۔ انہوں نے اگلے دس سے بیس سال کے عرصے میں پانی کے بدترین بحران کا خدشہ ظاہر کیا اور کہا حکومت اس سے نمٹنے کیلئے دیامیر بھاشا ڈیم پر تیزی سے کام کر رہی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا پاکستان اور بھارت کے درمیان ہوئی پروازوں سمیت تجارت کے حوالے سے تفصیلی روشنی ڈالی۔ آئی این پی کے مطابق احسن اقبال نے کہا کالا باغ ڈیم متنازعہ منصوبہ ہے جس سے فائدے کی بجائے وفاق کو نقصان پہنچ سکتا ہے، بد قسمتی سے ماضی میں اس منصوبے پر صرف تختیاں لگائی گئیں۔ ہم تمام ہمسایہ ممالک سے اچھے تعلقات کو خواہاں ہیں۔ جس طرح پاکستان کی طرف سے پی آئی اے کی پرواز بھارت کیلئے چلائی جا رہی ہے بھارت کو بھی پاکستان کیلئے پروازیں چلائی جائیں، اسی طرح بھارت کی طرف سے ویزا پالیسی میں بھی نرمی کی ضرورت ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر نے کہا بجلی کا بحران چودہ سالوں سے چلا آ رہا ہے اسے چند دنوں میں دور نہیں کیا جاسکتا۔ موجودہ حکومت نے حکمت عملی کے تحت بند پڑے پیداواری یونٹس کو بحال کیا جبکہ گردش قرضے کی مد میں ادائیگیاں کی گئیں۔

اسلام آباد (دقائق نیوز + ایجنسیاں) سپریم کورٹ نے تھر میں قحط سالی اور بچوں کی اموات بارے حکومت سندھ کی رپورٹ پر عدم اطمینان کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے مسٹر د کردی اور چیف سیکرٹری اور سیکرٹری سندھ سے 48 گھنٹوں میں تفصیلی رپورٹ طلب کر لی، اقوام متحدہ کے ادارے کی رپورٹ کی روشنی میں کئے گئے حکومتی اقدامات پر تفصیلات بھی طلب کی گئی ہیں چیف جسٹس نے ریمارکس دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے حکومت سوچی رہی اور لوگ غذائی قلت سے مرتے رہے، تھر واقعہ متعلقہ سول انتظامیہ کی سنگین غفلت ہے، کسی کو معاف نہیں کر سکتے، کتنے معصوم بچے اس دنیائے چلے گئے اور حکام سیاست کرنے میں مصروف ہیں۔ کسی نے نہیں دیکھا کہ عالمی تنظیم جب خبردار کر رہی ہے تو کچھ اقدامات ہی کر لئے جاتے۔ جسٹس شیخ عفت سید نے کہا کہ تھر کے لوگوں کو بے یار و مددگار چھوڑ دیا گیا، پہلے کہا گیا کہ لوگ بیماری سے مرے ہیں اب غذائی قلت سے اموات کا انکشاف کیا جا رہا ہے، کیا کسی کو عقل سلیم نہیں تھی، تھر کی صورتحال پر پہلے کیوں اقدامات نہیں اٹھائے گئے، اصلاح احوال کیلئے تباہی کا ہی کیوں انتظار کیا جاتا ہے، آج عدالت فائل بند کر دے تو حکومتی اقدامات صفر ہو جائیں گے، ریلیف کیساتھ ساتھ اس طرح کے واقعات کی روک تھام کیلئے بھی اقدامات ہونا ضروری ہیں، کراچی کی کہانیاں سنا کر عدالت کی توجہ اس واقعہ سے ہٹانے کی کوشش نہ کی جائے۔ عدالت کو بتایا گیا کہ غذائی قلت اور بیماریوں کی وجہ سے دسمبر 2013ء سے مارچ 2014ء تک ضلعی ہسپتال مٹھی میں 99 بچوں سمیت 127 افراد جاں بحق ہوئے۔ دسمبر میں 26، جنوری 2014ء میں 21، فروری میں 23 اور مارچ میں 8 بچے، ڈیپلو تحصیل ہسپتال میں 2، نگر پارکر میں 6 اور چھا چھرو میں 13 بچوں سمیت 128 مرد و خواتین کی ہلاکتیں درج کی گئی ہیں۔ 2 لاکھ 59 ہزار متاثرہ خاندان ہیں۔ کراچی کے حالات کی خرابی کی وجہ سے بھی مسائل پیدا ہوئے ہیں۔ چیف جسٹس نے استفسار کیا کہ قحط سے کتنے لوگ متاثر ہوئے تو سیکرٹری صحت نے بتایا کہ متاثرہ لوگوں کی تعداد دس لاکھ کے قریب ہے اور اس وقت ہم چار لاکھ کے قریب لوگوں تک پہنچ چکے ہیں تاہم دور دراز علاقوں کے لوگوں تک ٹرانسپورٹ سسٹم کی بد حالی کے باعث پہنچنے میں مشکلات ہیں کیونکہ وہاں پر انے دور کی کیکڑا اثر انپورٹ چل رہی ہے۔ جسٹس شیخ عفت سید نے کہا کہ تھر میں گیارہ لاکھ کی آبادی ہے، سندھ حکومت زیادہ سے زیادہ ایک لاکھ متاثرین تک پہنچی ہوگی۔ حکومت سندھ درست تعداد بتائے کتنے متاثرین کو گندم اور ریلیف کاساماں پہنچا دیا گیا۔ چیف جسٹس نے ان سے استفسار کیا متاثرہ لوگوں کو پانی کی فراہمی کا کیا انتظام ہے

تھر میں لوگ غذائی قلت سے مرتے، سندھ

حکومت سوچی رہی کسی کو معاف نہیں کر سکتے:

جسٹس عفت

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

توانہوں نے جواب دیا کہ تھر میں ایک سو واٹر پلانٹ پہلے سے ہی لگے ہوئے تھے جبکہ مزید پلانٹ بھی نصب کئے جا رہے ہیں تاہم اس علاقے میں پانی کا مسئلہ جلدی حل نہیں ہو سکتا۔ جسٹس خلیفی عارف حسین نے استفسار کیا کہ تھر میں ہر دوسرے تیسرے سال قحط کی صورت حال پیدا ہوتی ہے تو حکومت نے اس کے لئے پہلے سے منصوبہ بندی کیوں نہیں کی آخر اتنے لوگوں کو کیوں بے آسرا چھوڑا گیا وہاں ایسے ہسپتال ہیں جہاں سے کوئی جانوروں کا علاج بھی نہیں کراتا۔ چیف سیکرٹری سندھ کی رپورٹ پر عدالت نے کہانندھ حکومت کی طرف سے بچوں کی ہلاکتوں کو بیورو کریسی کی غفلت کا نتیجہ قرار دیا جا رہا ہے حالانکہ قحط کے خدشے کے باوجود حکمرانوں کی جانب سے غفلت کا مظاہرہ کیا گیا۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق 11 لاکھ آبادی میں سے صرف ایک لاکھ کو امداد فراہم کی گئی۔ عدالت نے استفسار کیا کہ کیا بارشیں نہ ہونے سے بحران کا حکومت کو ایک سال بعد پتہ چلتا ہے؟ ایڈووکیٹ جنرل نے کہا کہ وہ اس کو بیورو کریسی کی غفلت نہیں کہتے، گوداموں میں گندم موجود تھی لیکن فراہمی میں تاخیر افسوسناک امر ہے۔

اسلام آباد (شہامیون) وزیر سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی زاہد حامد نے قومی اسمبلی کی قائمہ کمیٹی سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی کو آگاہ کیا ہے کہ صوبائی دارالحکومتوں میں کامیٹس کے قیام کے لیے وزراء اعلیٰ کو زمین کی فراہمی کے بارے میں خطوط بھجوا دیئے ہیں۔ مجموعی قومی پیداوار (جی ڈی پی) میں سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی کا حصہ صرف پوائنٹ فنانس ہے 2018ء تک اسے 2 فیصد تک لے جانے کا ہدف ہے۔ اسلام آباد کی تمام سرکاری عمارتوں کو گرین عمارتوں میں تبدیل کرنے کا منصوبہ تیار کر لیا گیا۔ آغاز پارلیمنٹ ہاؤس سے ہو گا۔ بجلی کے لیے سولر سسٹم استعمال ہو گا۔ پیر کو کمیٹی کا اجلاس کمیٹی چیئر مین طارق بشیر چیمہ کی صدارت میں پارلیمنٹ ہاؤس میں ہوا۔ کمیٹی نے وزارت کو ملک بھر میں 80 فیصد فلٹریشن پلانٹس کے ناکارہ ہونے کی تحقیقات کی ہدایت کر دی ہے۔ کمیٹی کو آگاہ کیا گیا ہے کہ ضلع تھر پارکر میں زیر زمین پانی کی موجودگی سے متعلق تحقیقی رپورٹ تیار کر لی گئی ہے۔ قحط کے علاقوں میں بھی سوچ سے زیادہ پانی کی موجودگی کے شواہد ملے ہیں۔ اسلام آباد میں سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی پارکس کے لیے 150 ایکڑ زمین سنٹ کے قریب حاصل کر لی گئی ہے۔ وزیر سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی نے آگاہ کیا کہ ہیڈرو پلانٹس کے لیے 20 کروڑ روپے مختص کیے جا رہے ہیں قومی ترقیاتی پروگرام کے لیے سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی کے منصوبوں کو حتمی شکل دے دی گئی ہے۔ کمیٹی نے پی ایس ڈی پی 2014-15ء پر وزارت کی تجاویز کی توثیق کر دی ہے۔ زاہد حامد نے بتایا کہ اسلام آباد کی تمام سرکاری عمارتوں کو گرین ہاؤسز کی طرز پر اپ گریڈ کیا جائے گا۔ سولر سسٹم لگے گا۔ آغاز پارلیمنٹ ہاؤس سے ہو گا۔ غریب و کم آمدنی والے طبقات کے لیے سولر کے خصوصی شیش بنانے متعارف کرائے جائیں گے جن سے ایک پنکھا اور لائٹس چل سکیں گی۔ اس مقصد کے لیے 20 کروڑ روپے مختص کیے جا رہے ہیں۔ متعلقہ تحقیقی ادارے کے حکام نے بتایا کہ ملک میں فلٹریشن پلانٹس متعلقہ علاقوں کے پانی کے حوالے سے معیار کے مطابق پلانٹس نہیں لگے ملک بھر میں ایک جیسے پلانٹس لگائے گئے جبکہ ہر علاقے کے پانی کی نوعیت الگ الگ ہوتی ہے دیہاتوں میں بھی سیوریج نہ ہونے کی وجہ سے زیر زمین پانی آلودہ ہو رہا ہے وزیر سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی نے آگاہ کیا کہ کامیٹس کے لیے زمین کے حصول سے متعلق وزراء اعلیٰ کو زمین کی فراہمی کے بارے میں خطوط لکھ دیئے ہیں ملک بھر میں پانچ ہزار بائیو گیس کے سسٹم لگیں گے۔ کمیٹی نے وزارت سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی کو ملک میں 80 فیصد سے زائد فلٹریشن پلانٹس کے ناکارہ ہونے کی تحقیقات کی ہدایت کر دی ہے۔ حکام نے بتایا ہے کہ قحط کے علاقوں پانی موجود ہے۔ سوچ سے بھی زیادہ ذخیرہ ہے۔ تھر پر بھی رپورٹ تیار کر لی گئی ہے۔

اسلام آباد (شہامیون) سپریم کورٹ نے تھر میں قحط سے ہونے والی ہلاکتوں کے خلاف از خود نوٹس کیس کی سماعت کے دوران چیف سیکرٹری سندھ کی جانب سے جمع کرائی گئی رپورٹ کو غیر تسلی بخش قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ سندھ حکومت کی طرف سے بچوں کی ہلاکتوں کو بیورو کریسی کی غفلت کا نتیجہ قرار دیا جا رہا ہے حالانکہ قحط کے خدشے کے باوجود حکمرانوں کی جانب سے غفلت کا مظاہرہ کیا گیا۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق 11 لاکھ آبادی میں سے صرف ایک لاکھ کو امداد فراہم کی گئی۔ عدالت نے اس استفسار کیا کہ کیا بارشیں نہ ہونے سے بحران کا حکومت کو ایک سال بعد پتہ چلتا ہے۔ چیف جسٹس قمر فاضل حسین جیلانی کی سربراہی میں جسٹس خلیفی عارف حسین اور جسٹس شیخ عظیم سعید پر مشتمل عدالت عظمیٰ کے تین رکنی بینچ نے پیر کے روز مقدمہ کی سماعت کی۔ ایڈووکیٹ جنرل سندھ نے چیف سیکرٹری کی طرف سے رپورٹ پیش کرتے ہوئے موقف اختیار کیا کہ وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ سید قائم علی شاہ نے نومبر 2013ء میں قحط کی صورت حال پیدا ہونا کا خدشہ ظاہر کیا تھا لیکن بیورو کریسی نے خط و کتابت میں ایک ماہ ضائع کر دیا جس پر چیف جسٹس قمر فاضل جیلانی نے کہا کہ گویا سندھ حکومت ہلاکتوں کو بیورو کریسی کی غفلت کا نتیجہ قرار دے رہی ہے۔ ایڈووکیٹ جنرل نے کہا کہ وہ اس کو بیورو کریسی کی غفلت نہیں کہتے بلکہ جو طریقہ کار اپنایا گیا اس سے نقصان پہنچا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ گوداموں میں گندم موجود تھی لیکن فراہمی میں تاخیر افسوسناک امر ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گزشتہ سال تھر میں بارشیں نہیں ہوئیں جس کے باعث اس صورت حال کا سامنا کرنا پڑا۔ جسٹس خلیفی عارف حسین نے ایڈووکیٹ جنرل سے استفسار کیا کہ تھر میں بارشیں کب ہوتی ہیں۔ ایڈووکیٹ جنرل کا کہنا تھا کہ مئی اور جون کے مہینے میں بارشیں ہوتی ہیں اور مئی سے اگست تک کوئی بارش نہیں ہوئی جس کے باعث یہ صورت حال سامنے آئی۔ جسٹس شیخ عظیم سعید نے کہا کہ اگر تھر میں بارشیں نہیں ہوئیں تو اقدامات ہونے چاہئیں تھے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ نے بھی خدشہ ظاہر کیا لیکن خدشے کے باوجود حکمرانوں نے غفلت کا مظاہرہ کیا۔ جسٹس عظیم نے رپورٹ کا جائزہ لیتے ہوئے کہا کہ رپورٹ کے مطابق گیارہ لاکھ آبادی میں سے صرف ایک لاکھ کو امداد فراہم کی گئی جبکہ دس لاکھ افراد ابھی تک محروم ہیں۔ چیف جسٹس نے ایڈووکیٹ جنرل سندھ کو ہدایت کی کہ عدالت کو یہ بتایا جائے کہ حکومت نے اب تک کتنے لوگوں کو گندم اور پینے کا صاف پانی فراہم کیا ہے۔ عدالت نے

اسلام آباد کی تمام سرکاری عمارتوں کو گرین عمارتوں میں تبدیل کرنے کا منصوبہ تیار
سداقتھ اینٹین نیوز اینجینی (شہامیون)

18 مارچ 2014

سپریم کورٹ: تھر میں قحط سے ہونے والی ہلاکتوں کے خلاف از خود نوٹس کیس کی سماعت
سداقتھ اینٹین نیوز اینجینی (شہامیون)

18 مارچ 2014

انہیں تحریری صورت میں رپورٹ عدالتی وقفے کے بعد جمع کرانے کی ہدایت کی۔

اسلام آباد (شام نیوز) پاکستان اکانومی وچ کے صدر ڈاکٹر مرتضیٰ مغل نے کہا ہے کہ راول ڈیم کی متوقع عمر چند سال رہ گئی ہے جسکے بعد راولپنڈی کی عوام کو پانی کی فراہمی کا واحد اہم ذریعہ دادو پے ڈیم ہو گا جسکی سائیٹ پر رہائشی منصوبے شروع کر دیئے گئے ہیں۔ ڈیم نہ بننے کی صورت میں عوام پانی کی بوند بوند کو ترس جائیں گے اور ہنستا ہنستا اجڑ جائے گا۔ ڈاکٹر مرتضیٰ مغل نے کہا جبکہ رپورٹ کے بعد حکومت پنجاب نے اس پر دریائے سوان پر دادو چاڈیم بنانے کا فیصلہ کرتے ہوئے فوہ۔ بیلیٹی رپورٹ کے لئے فنڈ جاری اور مقامی آبادی سے اٹھارہ سو ایکڑ زمین خریدنے کی منصوبہ بندی شروع کر دی جبکہ اسے سالانہ ترقیاتی منصوبہ میں بھی شامل کر لیا گیا مگر بد قسمتی سے اس پر کوئی پیش رفت نہ ہو سکی۔ اس موقع پر ڈی ایچ اے کے سابق ڈائریکٹر کرمل (ر) طارق کمال نے کہا کہ حکومت پنجاب کے اعلیٰ حکام مبینہ طور پر لینڈ مافیا سے ملی بھگت کی وجہ سے خاموش ہیں، راولپنڈی کے اکثر سیاستدانوں کو بھی مبینہ طور پر خرید اچا چکا ہے جبکہ عوام آنے والی قیامت سے لاعلم ہیں۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ راولپنڈی اور اسلام آباد میں زیر زمین پانی کی سطح مسلسل گر رہی ہے، کئی علاقوں کے لوگ مسلسل ٹینکروں کا پانی خرید کر استعمال کرنے پر مجبور ہیں۔

راول ڈیم کی عمر چند سال رہ گئی، راولپنڈی ایک اور

تھربن سکتا ہے: اکانومی وچ

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

15 مارچ 2014

تھر میں گیارہ لاکھ افراد خشک سالی سے متاثر

ڈیڑھ لاکھ سے زائد کی نقل مکانی، خیر پور میں 6

جاں بحق، 9 اصلاح کیلئے ریڈارٹ جاری

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

13 مارچ 2014

خیر پور + کراچی (نوائے وقت رپورٹ + نیٹ نیوز + بی بی سی) خیر پور میں خوراک کی کمی کے باعث بیماریوں میں مبتلا 61 افراد دم توڑ چکے ہیں۔ نجی ٹی وی کے مطابق خیر پور کے ریگستانوں میں خشک سالی نے ڈیرے ڈال دیئے ہیں۔ مختلف بیماریوں سے 6 افراد دم توڑ گئے جب کہ متعدد افراد بیماریوں میں مبتلا ہیں۔ دوسری جانب خیر پور میں 400 مویشی بھی مر گئے ہیں۔ صوبہ سندھ میں قدرتی آفات سے نمٹنے والے ادارے این ڈی ایم کی جانب سے جاری کیے گئے اعداد و شمار کے مطابق تھر میں گیارہ لاکھ لوگ خشک سالی سے متاثر ہوئے ہیں جبکہ ڈیڑھ لاکھ سے زائد لوگ نقل مکانی کر چکے ہیں۔ سندھ حکومت نے حالیہ بحران کے پیش نظر علاقے میں گندم کی ایک لاکھ بیس ہزار بوریاں تقسیم کرنے کا اعلان کیا تھا۔ محکمہ خوراک کے ضلعی کنٹرولر محمد حنیف ایڈو نے بی بی سی کو بتایا ہے وہ اس وقت تک 33 ہزار 300 بوریاں گندم تقسیم کر چکے ہیں، سائیکس ہزار بوریاں گوداموں میں موجود ہیں۔ یاد رہے اس سے پہلے آٹھ ماہ میں گندم کی ساٹھ ہزار بوریاں تقسیم نہیں ہو سکی تھیں۔ قحط سالی کی اطلاعات کے بعد حکومت نے مزید ساٹھ ہزار بوریاں بھیجنے کا اعلان کیا تھا، لیکن خود حکومتی اعداد و شمار اس بات کی تصدیق کرتے ہیں ابھی تک یہ گندم پہنچ نہیں سکی۔ اب ٹھیکیداروں کی مدد سے گندم کی تقسیم کی جا رہی ہے، جس کے لیے مختلف سینٹر بنائے گئے ہیں، لیکن موصول ہونے والی شکایات کے مطابق اس مفت تقسیم پر بھی ٹھیکیدار لوگوں سے پیسے مانگ رہے ہیں۔ دوسری جانب سندھ حکومت نے 1998 کی مردم شماری کے بجائے موجودہ آبادی کے تحت گندم کی تقسیم کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، جس کے تحت تھر میں دو لاکھ 59 ہزار خاندان رجسٹرڈ ہیں ہر گھرانہ دس سے پندرہ افراد اور بچوں پر مشتمل ہے۔ حکومت فی خاندان پچاس کلو گرام گندم فراہم کر رہی ہے، جو حکام کے خیال میں ایک ماہ کے لیے کافی ہے۔ غیر سرکاری تنظیمیں صرف گندم کی تقسیم کی مخالفت کر رہی ہیں۔ سکوپ نامی تنظیم کے مقامی رہنما بھارول کا کہنا ہے کہ سیلاب اور زلزلے میں جس طرح لوگوں کو حکومت آنا، دال، چاول، گھی فراہم کرتی ہے یہاں بھی ایسے ہی پیکیج کی ضرورت ہے۔ 'لوگ روٹی کس سے کھائیں گے، حکومت کو اس کا بھی خیال کرنا چاہیے۔' بھارول نے بتایا کہ تھر کے لوگ جانوروں کے دودھ پر گزارہ کرتے تھے مگر اب جانور بڑی تعداد میں ہلاک ہو چکے ہیں پھر کمزور ہیں، اس لئے لوگوں کو دودھ اور دہی دستیاب نہیں ہے۔ تھر پارک میں خشک سالی اور قحط کے باعث پیدا ہونے والی صورتحال کے تناظر میں این ڈی ایم اے امدادی کارروائیاں تیز کر دی ہیں، مختلف جگہوں پر کو لیکشن پوائنٹ بنادئے گئے۔ امدادی سامان متاثرہ علاقوں تک پہنچایا جا رہا ہے، 1404 ٹن گندم کے قبیلے، 1277 ٹن خوراک، 1151 ٹن چاول ایک لاکھ چالیس ہزار منزل وائر کی بوتلیں، بسکٹس کے پندرہ ہزار بیگٹ اور طاقت دینے والے بسکٹس کے پانچ ہزار بیگٹس متاثرہ علاقوں میں پہنچادئے گئے۔ نجی ٹی وی کے مطابق خشک سالی کے باعث تھر میں جنم لینے والے حالات کو لفظوں میں بیان کرنا مشکل ہے، اس المیہ نے پوری قوم کو حکمرانوں کی بے حسی اور کارکردگی کے بارے میں سوچنے پر مجبور کر دیا ہے۔ تھر کی قحط سالی کی کہانی نے دکھ کے جذبے کو جھنجھور کر رکھ دیا ہے، ماں نے کس دل سے اپنے بچوں کو خالی پیٹ نیند کی تھپکیاں دی ہوں گی، کس طرح اپنے لخت جگر کو شہر خوشنشاں کی جانب بھیجا ہو گا۔ بھوک سے نڈھال بچوں کی سسکتی ہوئی آوازیں دل کو دہلا دیتی ہے۔ امداد سرگرمیاں جاری، مگر امداد صرف شہری علاقوں تک ہی محدود ہے، دیہی علاقوں کے باسی اب تک صوبائی حکومت کی آنکھوں سے اوجھل ہیں۔ تھتی دھوپ اور کچی جھونپڑیوں میں زندگی گزارنے والے متاثرین کی آنکھوں میں امید کی کرنیں بجھتی نظر آ رہی ہیں، تھر کی خشک سالی کی سنگین صورتحال نے معصوم لوگوں کو جس اذیت میں مبتلا کر دیا ہے، اس کے ذمے دار اپنا احتساب کرنے کو تیار نظر نہیں آتے۔ اس المیہ نے پوری قوم کو حکمرانوں کی بے حسی اور کارکردگی کے بارے میں سوچنے پر مجبور کر دیا ہے۔ دریں اثنا تھر پارک کی صورت حال پر غور کیلئے اپوزیشن نے سندھ اسمبلی کا اجلاس بلانے کی درخواست جمع کرادی ہے۔ سندھ اسمبلی میں اپوزیشن کی جماعتیں متحدہ قومی مومنٹ، تحریک انصاف، مسلم لیگ اور مسلم لیگ فنکشنل کے اراکان نے اجلاس کیلئے درخواست اسمبلی سکریٹریٹ میں جمع کرادی۔ درخواست جمع کرانے کے بعد میڈیا سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے سندھ اسمبلی میں قائد حزب اختلاف فیصل سبزواری کا کہنا تھا کہ تھر پارک میں حکومت نام کی کوئی چیز نظر نہیں آتی، معصوم بچوں کی ہلاکت اور حکومت کی غفلت کی پوری تحقیقات ہونی چاہئے۔ سندھ کے خشک سالی سے متاثرہ علاقے تھر اور اسکے نواحی علاقوں میں تمام تر امدادی کارروائیوں کے باوجود دراز علاقے اب بھی امداد سے محروم ہیں۔ کینار، جیٹرا، کیسراڑ سمیت متعدد دیہات تک امداد نہیں پہنچ سکیں۔ غذائی قلت کے باعث مزید 30 مقامی ہسپتال میں منتقل کر دیا

گیا ہے۔ حکومت سندھ نے تھر کی صورت حال کے بعد مزید اضلاع میں کسی بھی ہنگامی صورت حال سے نمٹنے کیلئے ریڈ الارٹ جاری کر دیا ہے۔ سیکرٹری مالیات روشن علی شیخ کے مطابق تھر کی صورتحال کے بعد ساگھڑ، بدین، ٹھٹھہ، سجاول، گھوٹکی، سکھر، خیرپور، عمرکوٹ اور لاڑکانہ کیلئے ریڈ الارٹ جاری کیا گیا ہے۔ سیکرٹری سندھ اسمبلی آغا سراج درانی نے ایم کیو ایم سمیت دیگر اپوزیشن جماعتوں کی درخواست پر سندھ اسمبلی کا اجلاس 21 مارچ کو سندھ اسمبلی بلڈنگ میں طلب کر لیا ہے۔ قبل ازیں سندھ اسمبلی میں بدھ کو میڈیا سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے سیکرٹری سندھ اسمبلی آغا سراج درانی نے کہا کہ تھر کی صورت حال پر وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ کو گمراہ کیا گیا اور اس حوالے وزیر اعلیٰ کو غلط رپورٹ پیش کی گئی۔ سندھ اسمبلی میں قائد حزب اختلاف سید فیصل سزواری نے کہا ہے کہ چہرے تبدیل کرنے سے تھر کی صورت حال بہتر نہیں ہوگی۔ حکومت کو تھر میں حالات معمول پر لانے کے لئے جنگی بنیادوں پر کام کرنا ہوگا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ کے کوآرڈینیٹر اور تھر پارک میں امدادی سرگرمیوں کے نگران تاج حیدر نے کہا ہے کہ گذشتہ چار روز کے دوران 30701 گندم کی بوریاں تقسیم کر دی گئی ہیں۔ وزیر مملکت برائے پانی و بجلی عابد شیر علی نے خط سالی سے متاثرہ تھر پارک میں لوڈ شیڈنگ کے مکمل خاتمے کا اعلان کرتے ہوئے حبیبکو کے افسروں کو ہدایت کی ہے تھر پارک میں بجلی کی بلا تعطل فراہمی کو ہر صورت یقینی بنایا جائے۔ تھر پارک کے دور دراز علاقے اب بھی امداد سے محروم ہیں۔ غذائی قلت کے باعث مزید 30 بچے ہسپتال میں داخل کر دیئے گئے ہیں، بیمار یوں سے جاں بحق افراد کی تعداد ایک سو تین تالیس ہو گئی ہے، ٹھٹھہ کے بنیادی مرکز صحت میں کروڑوں کی ادویات ضائع ہو گئیں لیکن دم توڑتے مریضوں کو نصیب نہ ہوئیں۔ تھر کی صورتحال سے نمٹنے کیلئے گورنر ہاؤس میں اجلاس ہوا جس میں اعلیٰ حکام نے گورنر سندھ کو جاری ریلیف سرگرمیوں سے آگاہ کیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ سید قائم علی شاہ نے اعتراف کیا ہے کہ تھر پارک میں غذائی قلت کی ذمہ دار ضلعی انتظامیہ ہے۔ میڈیا کو میرے استعفیٰ کا اظہار ہے لیکن ایسا نہیں ہوگا۔ مٹھی میں میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے سید قائم علی شاہ نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم کے دورہ تھر پارک اور امداد دینے پر ان کے شکر گزار ہیں۔ آئندہ چند روز میں تھر پارک کے ہر گھر میں گندم پہنچ جائیگی۔ غذائی قلت کے ذمہ داروں کے خلاف کارروائی کی جائے گی۔ پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی کے سرپرست اعلیٰ بادل بھٹو زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ تھر میں ہلاکتوں کے ذمہ دار افسروں کو نہیں بخشا جائے گا۔ انہوں نے وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ سے تھر میں ہلاکتوں کی رپورٹ طلب کرتے ہوئے ہدایت کی ہے کہ ذمہ دار حکام کے خلاف کارروائی کی رپورٹ دیں۔ بادل بھٹو زرداری نے آصف علی زرداری کو دورہ تھر پارک کے حوالے سے رپورٹ پیش کرتے ہوئے آگاہ کیا کہ انہوں نے تھر کے حالات کا تفصیلی مشاہدہ کیا ہے اور خط سالی سے متاثرہ افراد سے خود ملاقات کی ہے۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ حکومت سندھ نے انہیں بریفنگ میں بتایا ہے کہ تھر میں گندم کی صحیح تقسیم نہ ہونے کے باعث موجودہ صورتحال پیش آئی ہے۔ زیادہ تر بچوں کی ہلاکتیں غذائی اشیاء کی کمی اور بیماری کے باعث ہوئی ہے۔ ضلع ساگھڑ کی چار یونین کونسلوں میں بھی شدید خشک سالی سے خطے کے آثار ہیں، خوراک نہ ملنے اور بیماریوں کے باعث کبریوں اور بھیڑوں کی ہلاکتیں شروع ہو گئیں۔ پانی کی شدید قلت ہے، کنوئیں خشک ہو گئے ہیں۔ بارشیں ہونے کے باعث موشیوں کا چارہ ناپید ہو گیا۔

پاکستان کی بڑی تعداد ماحولیاتی تبدیلیوں سے

براہ راست متاثر

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

13 مارچ 2014

اسلام آباد (نیوز/بی بی سی) پاکستان میں رہنے والوں کی ایک بڑی تعداد نہ صرف ماحولیاتی تبدیلیوں سے براہ راست متاثر ہو رہی ہے بلکہ ان کے منفی اثرات سے بچنے کے لئے نقل مکانی اور ذرائع آمدن کی تبدیلی جیسے مشکل فیصلے کرنے پر بھی مجبور ہے۔ بی بی سی کے ٹرسٹ کے زیر اہتمام ”کلائمٹ ایڈیٹ“ نامی تنظیم نے پاکستان سمیت سات ممالک میں ماحولیاتی تبدیلیوں کے بارے میں ایک سروے کیا ہے۔ اس سروے رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ پاکستان میں ماحولیاتی تبدیلیوں کے اثرات ان سات ممالک میں سے سب سے زیادہ محسوس کئے جا رہے ہیں۔ سروے کے مطابق سات میں سے پاکستان واحد ملک ہے جہاں کے لوگ سمجھتے ہیں کہ ان کے ملک میں ان تبدیلیوں کے باعث حالات بدتر ہوتے جا رہے ہیں۔ پاکستان میں رہنے والوں کی اکثریت (ترپن فیصد آبادی) سمجھتی ہے کہ ماحولیاتی تبدیلیوں کے باعث ان کے حالات گزشتہ دس برسوں میں بدتر ہوئے ہیں۔ باقی چھ ملکوں میں رہنے والوں کا کہنا ہے کہ گزشتہ دس برس میں ان کے حالات میں بہتری آئی ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان دو ایسے ملک ہیں جہاں کے عوام ان ماحولیاتی تبدیلیوں سے نمٹنے کے لیے تیزی کے ساتھ اپنا رہن سہن تبدیل کر رہے ہیں۔ 24 فیصد نے اپنے ذرائع آمدن تبدیل کئے ہیں جبکہ 22 فیصد کے طرز زندگی میں تبدیلی آئی ہے جن میں کھانے پینے کی عادات، خوراک کو ضائع ہونے سے بچانے کی ترکیبیں اور بجلی اور توانائی کے دیگر ذرائع میں بچت وغیرہ شامل ہے۔ 44 فیصد نے کہا کہ ماحولیاتی تبدیلیاں ان کی زندگیوں پر براہ راست اثر انداز ہو رہی ہیں۔ ان میں درجہ حرارت میں اضافہ، پانی اور دیگر قدرتی ذرائع میں کمی اور فصلوں وغیرہ پر اثرات شامل ہیں۔ شہریوں کی ایک بڑی تعداد (72 فیصد) سمجھتی ہے کہ حکومت ان اثرات سے بچانے کے لئے کوئی اقدامات نہیں کر رہی۔ سروے مرتب کرنے والی محقق خدیجہ ظہیر کا کہنا ہے کہ جہاں پاکستانی ماحولیاتی تبدیلیوں سے زیادہ متاثر ہو رہے ہیں، وہیں خوش آئند بات یہ ہے کہ لوگ اپنے طور پر ہی سہی، حالات کا مقابلہ کرنے کے لئے خود کو تیار بھی کر رہے ہیں۔ ہمیں ان کے تجربات کو باقی لوگوں تک پہنچانا چاہئے ایسا کرنے کے لئے میڈیا کا کردار بہت اہم ہے۔

تھر / مٹھی (بی بی سی + نیوز ایجنسیاں + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) وزیر اعظم ڈاکٹر محمد نواز شریف نے صوبہ سندھ میں قحط سالی کے شکار علاقے تھر کے لیے ایک ارب روپے امداد کا اعلان کرتے ہوئے گندم کی تقسیم میں کوتاہی برتنے والے افراد کے خلاف سخت کارروائی کرنے کا حکم دیا ہے۔ ریڈیو پاکستان کے مطابق انہوں نے یہ اعلان تھر کے دورے کے دوران مٹھی میں قحط زدہ علاقے کی صورت حال کے حوالے سے بریفنگ کے دوران کیا۔ وزیر اعظم

تھر متاثرین کیلئے ایک ارب روپے امداد کا اعلان

گندم کی تقسیم میں کوتاہی، سندھ حکومت

کارروائی کرے: وزیر اعظم

نے کہا کہ ایسے حالات دوبارہ رونما ہونے سے بچنے کے لیے اقدامات کیے جائیں۔ انھوں نے قحط سالی کی وجہ سے اموات پر خدشات کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ جو لوگ علاج کے لیے دوسرے علاقوں میں جانے کے لیے تیار نہیں انھیں موبائل یونٹس کے ذریعے ان کے گھروں میں علاج فراہم کیا جائے۔ نواز شریف نے کہا کہ ان ذمہ دار افراد کے خلاف سخت کارروائی کی جائے جنھوں نے گندم کا ذخیرہ ہونے کے ہونے کے باوجود اسے قحط زدہ لوگوں میں تقسیم نہیں کیا۔ اس موقع پر سندھ کے وزیر اعلیٰ قائم علی شاہ نے کہا کہ صوبائی حکومت نے متاثرین کو خوراک اور ادویات مہیا کرنے کے لیے ہر ممکن اقدامات کیے ہیں۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ مستقبل میں اس قسم کی صورت حال سے بچنے کے لیے حکمت عملی تیار کر لی گئی ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ نے کہا کہ متاثرین میں گندم تقسیم کرنے کے لیے 5 سے 6 افراد پر مشتمل ٹیمیں بنائی گئیں ہیں۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ حکومت کو علاقے میں خاتون ڈاکٹروں کی کمی کا سامنا ہے۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ جو خواتین ڈاکٹر تھرم میں کام کرنا چاہتی ہیں انھیں زیادہ تنخواہ، مراعات، رہائش اور ٹرانسپورٹ کی سہولتیں مہیا کی جائیں گی۔ اس سے پہلے وزیر اعظم نواز شریف نے مٹھی کے سول ہسپتال کا دورہ کیا اور متاثرہ بچوں کی پیار سی کی۔ انھوں وہاں ہسپتال کے عملے کو بچوں کے علاج کے لئے ہر ممکن اقدامات کرنے کی ہدایت بھی کی۔ اس موقع پر وزیر اعظم کے ہمراہ سندھ کے وزیر اعلیٰ قائم علی شاہ اور بلاول بھٹو زرداری بھی موجود تھے۔ پی ٹی وی کے مطابق تھرم پارک پہنچنے پر ضلعی افسر نے وزیر اعظم نواز شریف کو بریفنگ دیتے ہوئے بتایا کہ متاثرین میں خوراک کے 6 ہزار قبیلے اور گندم کی ایک لاکھ بیسیوں ہزار بوریاں تقسیم کی جا چکی ہیں۔ ضلعی افسر نے بتایا کہ قحط سالی سے مال مویشیوں کو زیادہ نقصان ہوا جس میں زیادہ تر بھینسیں شامل ہیں۔ انھوں نے بتایا کہ علاقے میں مال مویشی لوگوں کا بڑا ذریعہ معاش ہے اس لیے مویشیوں کو بھی ویکسین لگائی گئی ہے۔ اس سے پہلے بلاول بھٹو بیر کی صبح مٹھی پہنچے تو ان کی آمد سے پہلے پولیس نے پورے شہر کو ہی حصار میں لے لیا تھا، پبلک ٹرانسپورٹ شہر میں داخل نہیں ہو سکی جبکہ شہر کے بازار بند رہے۔ بلاول بھٹو نے ہسپتال پہنچ کر مریضوں کی عیادت کی، یہ ان کا اس نوعیت کا پہلا عوامی رابطہ تھا۔ بلاول بھٹو نے وزیر اعظم ڈاکٹر محمد نواز شریف کا استقبال کیا اور دونوں نے دوبارہ ہسپتال کا دورہ کیا۔ اس دوران بھی مریضوں کی آمد کا سلسلہ جاری رہا، سرکاری میڈیا کے مطابق نواز شریف نے تھرم میں سیوریٹی وجوہات کی بنا پر دکانیں بند ہونے اور کاروباری سرگرمیاں معطل ہونے کا نوٹس لیتے ہوئے سندھ کے چیف سیکرٹری کو تمام سرگرمیاں بحال کرنے کا حکم دیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے سندھ حکومت کی جانب سے دیئے گئے ظہرانے کی دعوت میں شرکت سے معذرت کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ قومی خزانے کی رقم کھانوں پر خرچ کرنے کی بجائے متاثرہ افراد پر خرچ کی جائے۔ وزیر اعظم نے تھرم کے لوگوں سے اظہار بیعتی کرتے ہوئے کھانا کھانے سے انکار کر دیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے مٹھی میں سیوریٹی کے نام پر کئے جانے والے انتظامات کا نوٹس لیتے ہوئے ہدایت کی ہے کہ مریضوں کو کسی صورت تکلیف نہیں پہنچنی چاہئے، مٹھی کے تمام ہسپتال کھول دیئے جائیں۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ حکومت خشک سالی سے متاثرہ افراد کی ہر ممکن مدد کرے گی اور اس سلسلے میں انہوں نے سندھ حکومت کو یقین دلایا کہ وفاق اس بحران پر قابو پانے کے لئے مکمل تعاون کرے گا۔ وزیر اعظم کو تھرم پارک میں خشک سالی سے پیدا ہونے والی صورتحال سے متعلق تفصیلی بریفنگ دی گئی۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ تھرم پارک کے کمپنوں میں گندم کی تقسیم کے معاملے میں غفلت برتنے والے افراد کے خلاف سخت کارروائی ہونی چاہئے۔ انہوں نے لوگوں کو اشیاء خوردنی اور پینے کا صاف پانی فوری فراہم کرنے کی ہدایت کی۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا ہے کہ تھرم میں بہت جلد خوشحالی آئے گی، لوگ اپنے گھروں میں دوبارہ آباد ہوں گے، یہ صورتحال عارضی ہے جلد ہی حالات بہتر ہو جائیں گے۔ وہ متاثرین کے لئے بنائے گئے فوج کے امدادی اور میڈیکل کیمپ کے دورہ کے موقع پر متاثرین سے بات چیت کر رہے تھے۔ وزیر اعظم نے آر می چیف میڈیکل کیمپ کے دورہ کے موقع پر متاثرین میں امدادی سامان بھی تقسیم کیا جبکہ فوجی میڈیکل کیمپ میں موجود مریضوں کی خیریت بھی دریافت کی۔ وزیر اعظم میرپور خاص سے بلاول بھٹو زرداری کی گاڑی میں بیٹھ کر مٹھی ڈسٹرکٹ ہیڈ کوارٹر ہسپتال گئے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ قائم علی شاہ نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم نواز شریف نے ہمیشہ سندھی عوام کی مدد کی اور ان کی مدد اور تعاون پر سندھ حکومت نواز شریف کی شکر گزار ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نواز شریف قحط آوارہ پناہی سے ہونے والی اموات اور ریلیف سرگرمیوں بارے سیکرٹری صحت سندھ اور ڈی سی تھرم پارک کی بریفنگ کے دوران انتہائی فکر مند اور سنجیدہ دکھائی دیئے۔ وزیر اعظم بریفنگ کے دوران اہم نکات نوٹ بھی کرتے رہے۔ نجی ٹی وی کے مطابق وزیر اعظم سندھ حکومت اور انتظامیہ سے خاصے اکھڑے اکھڑے دکھائی دیئے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا ہے کہ تھرم اور چولستان کی آب و ہوا اور موسمی حالات میں کوئی فرق نہیں، دونوں علاقے رسم و رواج، روایات، رہن سہن کی وجہ سے ملتے جلتے ہیں، چولستان میں تو ایسے حالات نہیں، وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ ساری صورتحال کا جائزہ لے کر ذمہ داروں کے خلاف سخت کارروائی کریں۔ صوبائی وزیر اطلاعات و بلدیات شرجیل انعام میمن نے کہا ہے کہ ضلع تھرم پارک میں خوراک کی کمی کی وجہ سے بچوں کی اموات نہیں ہوئیں بلکہ تھرم کے 80 فیصد حصے میں شدید قحط سالی کے باعث اموات ہوئی ہیں اور بچوں کی اموات کے حوالے سے اعداد و شمار کو بڑھا چڑھا کر پیش کیا جا رہا ہے جبکہ اموات کی شرح اس علاقے میں معمول ہے اور پچھلے سال 196 اور اس سال 49 بچوں کی اموات ہوئی ہیں۔

مٹھی + اسلام آباد (این این آئی + آن لائن) سندھ حکومت، مقامی انتظامیہ، سرکاری اداروں اور فلاحی اداروں کی جانب سے صحرائے تھرم میں امدادی سرگرمیاں جاری ہیں لیکن بھوک اور پیاس سے نڈھال عوام کی مشکلات تاحال برقرار ہیں اور ہزاروں دیہات میں اب بھی امدادی سرگرمیاں شروع نہیں ہو سکیں۔ بچے غذائی قلت کا شکار ہو کر نمونیا، بخار، دست و قے، خون و وزن کی کمی اور میٹابولکس جیسے موذی امراض کا شکار ہو رہے ہیں جبکہ حاملہ خواتین بھی خوراک نہ ملنے کے باعث آئرن کی کمی کا شکار ہیں۔ حیدر آباد میں زیر علاج مزید 6 بچے جاں بحق ہو گئے جس کے بعد جاں بحق بچوں کی تعداد 125 سے تجاوز کر گئی ہے۔ لوگ اپنے مال مویشیوں کے ہمراہ مٹھی اور اسلام نگر کی جانب نقل مکانی کر رہے ہیں لیکن ہزاروں افراد اس سفر سے بھی

قاصر ہیں اور وہ امداد کے سہارے سانسیں کاٹ رہے ہیں۔ ادھر تھر میں بچوں کی ہلاکت پر حکومت سندھ نے وزیر خوراک سمیت دیگر افسروں کو عہدوں سے ہٹانے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ بروقت گندم فراہم نہ کرنے پر محکمہ خوراک کے متعدد افسروں کو بھی ہٹانے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں وزیر اعظم کو وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ قائم علی شاہ نے تھر میں امدادی کارروائیوں میں ارباب غلام رحیم اور میڈیا کا نمائندہ شامل کرنے کی پیشکش کر دی۔ بریفنگ میں وزیر اعلیٰ نے خاص طور پر میڈیا کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ میں آپ کے نمائندہ کے طور پر ارباب غلام رحیم اور تھر سے تعلق رکھنے والے ایک اخباری نمائندے جو بہت بڑھا چڑھا کر غلط خبریں دے رہا ہے اس کو شامل کرنے کو تیار ہوں۔ دریں اثناء ہنگامی حالت سے نمٹنے کے قومی ادارے نے کہا ہے کہ اگلے تین مہینوں کے دوران خشک سالی میں مزید اضافہ ہو سکتا ہے۔ تھر کے رہائشی ڈاکٹر سونو کھنگرانی کے بقول موجودہ صورتحال واضح کر رہی ہے کہ حکومت ان مسائل سے کتنی لاپرواہ ہے۔ جرمن خبر رساں ادارے ڈیپے ویلے سے باتیں کرتے ہوئے ڈاکٹر کھنگرانی نے کہا کہ صوبائی حکومت نے گزشتہ برس اگست میں ہی خشک سالی کا اعلان کر دیا تھا۔ اس کے باوجود سندھ حکومت نے منصوبہ سازی کی جانب کوئی توجہ نہیں دی۔ این ڈی ایم اے کے ایک اہم افسر بریگیڈ میجر زاکامراں ضیاء نے میڈیا کو بتایا ہے کہ ان کے ادارے کو بھی اگلے تین ماہ کے حوالے سے خاصی تشویش ہے۔ ریلیف کمشنر حکومت سندھ کی طرف سے جاری ایک نوٹیفکیشن کے تحت تعلقہ اور ضلع عمر کوٹ کی 25 دیہوں کو آفت زدہ قرار دیا ہے۔ دیہہ ڈن مور، شاخرو، موکل با، دودھڑ، لپ لو، حور گو، کپور، لال با، کچولی، سونہری، عمر کوٹ تھر، ویرو تھر، کل رال تھر، کھاؤر تھر، بھرائی تھر، دیت با، جانیو تھر، سدوہری تھر، صابھری تھر، تار سو، سنوئی تھر، نبی سر تھر، راجڑ تھر، راجڑی تھر اور چھوڑی تھر کو آفت زدہ قرار دیا ہے۔ ادھر ڈیپلو تھر پار کر کے قریب پانی بھرنے پر تصادم میں 9 افراد زخمی ہو گئے۔ ایک آزاد ذرائع کے مطابق تھر میں اس وقت مختلف ہسپتالوں میں 2600 سے زائد بچے زیر علاج ہیں جبکہ ایک ہفتہ کے دوران 150 کے قریب بچے جاں بحق ہو چکے ہیں۔ دریں اثناء حکومت سندھ نے تھر پار کر کے متاثرین کی امداد کے لئے 65 کروڑ روپے کے فنڈ زنگامی طور پر جاری کر دیئے ہیں۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق 65 کروڑ روپے میں سے 36 کروڑ روپے ریلیف کمشنر کو جاری کئے گئے ہیں۔

خیر پور نامیالی (فیض محمد بلوچ سے) سندھ کے علاقہ تھر کی طرح پنجاب کے علاقہ چولستان میں بھی خشک سالی اور قحط کے آثار سامنے آ گئے چولستان میں اپنے مال مویشیوں کے ہمراہ نقل مکانی شروع کر دی۔ تفصیل کے مطابق گزشتہ ایک سال سے چولستان میں کوئی خاطر خواہ بارش نہیں ہوئی جس کے نتیجے میں مویشیوں کیلئے لگھاں اور انسانوں کیلئے خوراک کا ذخیرہ ختم ہو گیا ہے۔ ٹوبے خشک ہونے سے سینے کا پانی نیاب ہو گیا۔ ذرائع کے مطابق ٹوبہ سکندر والا، ٹوبہ واگھ والا، ٹوبہ کھربہ، بہو، کچیاں، کسمانی، کیکری والا، ملک والا، سراں، قائم سر، نور سر بلوچاں، کریم داد، دتے والی، قادر پور، کالے پاڑ، پنج کوٹ، لیتجو اور جال والی کے ٹوبے بارش نہ ہونے کی وجہ سے خشک ہو چکے ہیں۔ خوراک اور چارہ کی نایابی سے چولستانیوں نے اپنے گھبراہٹ جھوڑ کر اپنے مال مویشیوں کے ہمراہ نقل مکانی شروع کر دی ہے۔ اطلاع ملتے ہی چولستان ترقیاتی اور بہاولپور کے چیئرمین ڈائریکٹر میاں آفتاب احمد حیدر زادہ نے محکمہ مال اور محکمہ لائیو سٹاک کے اہلکاروں کو حالات کا جائزہ لینے اور سروے کرنے کے لئے چولستان روانہ کر دیا ہے۔

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) سپریم کورٹ تھر میں قحط سالی سے بچوں کی ہلاکتوں پر از خود نوٹس کیس کی سماعت (آج) پیر کو کرے گی۔ چیف جسٹس تصدق حسین جیلانی کی سربراہی میں تین رکنی بنچ کیس کی سماعت کرے گا۔ کیس میں چیف سیکرٹری سندھ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی تھی۔ سپریم کورٹ نے ہدایت کی تھی کہ اس حوالے سے متعلقہ محکموں کا جو افسر عدالت میں پیش ہو وہ کم از کم ایڈیشنل سیکرٹری کے عہدے کا ہو۔

راولپنڈی (شام یوز) تھر پار کر میں قحط سالی اور خشک سالی سے متاثرہ افراد کی مدد کے لیے پاک فوج کی ٹیمیں علاقہ میں پہنچ گئیں ہیں آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق پاک فوج نے تھر پار کر میں فیلڈ ہسپتال قائم کر دیا ہے جہاں ڈاکٹر زاور بیر امیڈیکل سٹاف غذا بیت کی کمی کے شکار افراد کو طبی سہولتیں فراہم کر رہے ہیں لوگوں میں خوراک کی تقسیم شروع کر دی گئی ہے جی اوسی حیدر آباد میجر جنرل انعام اللہ خان بھی علاقہ میں موجود ہیں اور امدادی کاموں کی نگرانی کر رہے ہیں انہوں نے فیلڈ ہسپتال کا بھی دورہ کیا اور مریضوں کی عیادت کی دوسری جانب مختلف امدادی تنظیموں نے بھی علاقہ میں امداد فراہم کرنے کا آغاز کر دیا ہے فلاح انسانیت فاؤنڈیشن نے ریلیف کیمپ لگایا ہے پاک آرمی کے دستے پہنچ پہنچ گئے ہیں جبکہ پاک رینجرز کی جانب سے بھی کیمپ قائم کئے گئے ہیں صوبائی وزیر روبر قائم سعادت خانی اور شرمیلا فاروقی نے علاقہ کا دورہ کیا اور متاثرین میں امدادی سامان تقسیم کیا۔ چیف سیکرٹری سندھ سجاد سلیم ہوتیانہ نے قحط سالی کے باعث تھر پار کر میں بچوں کی ہلاکت پر نوٹس لیتے ہوئے کمشنر میر پور خاص ڈویژن غلام مصطفی پھل اور ڈپٹی کمشنر مٹھی عقیل الزماں کو عہدوں سے ہٹا کر دونوں افسران کو سرسوز پھارٹمنٹ رپورٹ تعینات کرنے کا حکم دیا ہے چیف سیکرٹری سندھ نے ساجد کمال ابڑو کو کمشنر میر پور خاص اور آصف اکرام کو ڈپٹی کمشنر مٹھی تعینات کر دیا ہے چیف سیکرٹری سندھ نے دونوں افسران کو قحط کی صورتحال میں غفلت برتنے پر عہدوں سے ہٹایا ہے چیف سیکرٹری سندھ کے مطابق حکومت سندھ نے چیف کمشنر میر پور خاص ڈویژن غلام مصطفی پھل اور کمشنر مٹھی خندوم عقیل الزماں کو محکمہ سرسوز رپورٹ کرنے کی ہدایت کی ہے نئے افسروں کی تعیناتی کا نوٹیفکیشن جاری کر دیا گیا ہے۔ بحریہ ٹاؤن کے چیئرمین ملک ریاض حسین نے تھر پار کر کے قحط متاثرین کے لیے 20 کروڑ روپے امداد کا اعلان کیا ہے نجی ٹی وی سے انٹرویو میں ملک ریاض کا کہنا تھا کہ تھر متاثرین کے لیے فوری طور پر بیس کروڑ روپے جاری کر دیئے گئے ہیں لاہور اور کراچی سے امدادی سامان بھجوا دیا گیا مجھے اس صورتحال پر بڑی تکلیف ہوئی ہے ان کا کہنا تھا کہ

چولستان میں بھی قحط منڈلانے لگا، لوگوں کی منتقلی

شروع

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

10 مارچ 2014

تھر میں ہلاکتیں: سپریم کورٹ آج از خود نوٹس کیس کی سماعت کریگی

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

10 مارچ 2014

تھر پار کر میں قحط سالی سے متاثرہ افراد کی مدد کے لیے پاک فوج کی ٹیمیں پہنچ گئیں

ساؤتھ ایشین نیوز ایجنسی (شام)۔

09 مارچ 2014

اگر اس صورتحال پر سو کروڑ روپے بھی لگے اور چاہے ہماری جان بھی لگے تو بحریہ ٹاؤن اپنے متاثرہ بہن بھائیوں کے ساتھ ہوگی ان کا کہنا تھا کہ حیرت ہے تھرپاکر میں درجنوں بچے بھوک سے دم توڑ گئے لیکن سندھ حکومت کو خبر تک نہیں ہوئی ان افراد کے خلاف 302 کی ایف آر درج ہونی چاہیے مجھے سمجھ نہیں آرہی یہ لوگ آج دن تک سیٹوں پر کیسے بیٹھے ہیں رات کو سوتے کس طرح ہیں اور ان کو نیند کس طرح آرہی ہے کیا ان کی اپنی اولاد نہیں ملک ریاض کا کہنا تھا کہ ان کا ذاتی جہاز اور ہیلی کاپٹر تھرپاکر میں امدادی سرگرمیوں میں مصروف ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب محمد شہباز شریف نے صحرائے تھرپاکر کی کمی اور قحط کے باعث کثیر تعداد میں بچوں کی ہلاکتوں اور وہاں بسنے والے خاندانوں کی مشکلات کے پیش نظر انسانی ہمدردی کی بنیاد پر ہزار خوراک کے پیکٹ متاثرہ افراد میں تقسیم کرنے کے لئے فوری طور پر روانہ کرنے کی ہدایت کی ہے۔ خوراک کے ان بیس ہزار پیکٹوں پر مشتمل بچپس ٹرکوں کا قافلہ صوبائی وزراء چوہدری شفیق اور وحید اراکین کی سربراہی میں لاہور سے روانہ کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے تاکہ خوراک کی کمی کے شکار صحرائے تھرپاکر کے متاثرین اور ان کے بچوں کی زندگیوں کا تحفظ یقینی بنایا جاسکے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب نے ڈائریکٹر جنرل ڈیزاسٹر مینجمنٹ پنجاب محمد آصف کو بھی خصوصی طور پر اس قافلے کے ساتھ روانہ ہونے کی ہدایت کی ہے۔ روانہ کئے جانے والے خوراک کے ہر امدادی پیکٹ میں آٹا، چاول، گھی، دالیں، چینی اور چائے کے علاوہ پینے کی پانی کی بوتلیں بھی وافر تعداد میں موجود ہیں۔ ہر پیکٹ ایک اوسط درجے کے خاندان کے افراد کی سات دنوں کی خوراک کی ضروریات پورا کرنے کے لئے کافی ہے۔

کراچی (شام نیوز): سندھ ہائی کورٹ کے چیف جسٹس مشیر عالم نے تھرپاکر میں قحط سالی میں بچوں کی ہلاکت کا از خود نوٹس لے لیا ہے اور 14 مارچ کو متعلقہ حکام سے اس سلسلے میں جواب طلب کیا ہے۔ چیف جسٹس سندھ ہائیکورٹ نے تھرپاکر میں قحط سالی اور بچوں کی اموات کا نوٹس لیتے ہوئے چیف سیکریٹری، سیکریٹری خوراک اور ڈیزاسٹر مینجمنٹ سے 14 مارچ تک جواب طلب کر لیا۔ چیف جسٹس نے حکم دیا ہے کہ بتایا جائے کہ حکومت نے قحط سالی اور اموات کے تدارک کیلئے کیا اقدامات کئے۔ سندھ ہائیکورٹ بار نے چیف جسٹس، جسٹس مقبول باقر کو تھرپاکر میں ہونے والی اموات اور قحط سالی سے متعلق بذریعہ خط آگاہ کیا۔ خط میں بتایا گیا ہے کہ ایک رپورٹ کے مطابق تھرپاکر کی پانچ تحصیلوں میں اب تک 121 بچوں کی اموات ہو چکی ہیں جبکہ قحط سالی کے باعث یومیہ پانچ بچے موت کا شکار ہو رہے ہیں۔ خط میں مزید کہا گیا ہے کہ حکومت سندھ کے گوداموں میں ساڑھ ہزار میٹرک ٹن گندم سڑ رہی ہے لیکن حکومت نے اس کی تقسیم کیلئے کوئی اقدامات نہیں کئے۔ چیف جسٹس نے ہائیکورٹ بار کے خط کو آئینی درخواست میں تبدیل کرتے ہوئے چیف سیکریٹری سندھ، سیکریٹری خوراک اور ڈیزاسٹر مینجمنٹ سے 14 مارچ تک جواب طلب کرتے ہوئے حکم دیا ہے کہ بتایا جائے کہ حکومت نے قحط سالی اور اموات کے تدارک کیلئے کیا اقدامات کئے ہیں۔

راولپنڈی (شام نیوز): سیچن میں برفانی تودے تلے دب کر شہید ہونے والے اہل کاروں میں سے دو ساہیوں کے جسد خاکی تلاش کر لیے گئے، جب کہ ایک سپاہی کے جسد خاکی کی تلاش جاری ہے۔ عسکری ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ تین روز قبل اسکرود کے قریب برفانی تودہ گرنے سے پاک فوج کے تین جوان لا پتہ ہو گئے تھے، عسکری حکام کے مطابق لا پتہ جوانوں کی تلاش کیلئے امدادی کارروائیاں جاری تھیں، جس کے بعد ہفتہ کی صبح دو جوانوں کے جسد خاکی تلاش کر لیے گئے، جب کہ ایک سپاہی کی تلاش جاری ہے۔ جسد خاکی کو سی ایم ایچ منتقل کر دیا گیا ہے۔ واضح رہے اس سے قبل 7 اپریل 2012 میں سیچن کے گیلاری سیکٹر میں ہٹلین بیڈ کو اثر زبرد گلیئیر گرنے سے پاک فوج کے 135 اہلکار برف تلے دب کر شہید ہو گئے تھے۔

چیف جسٹس سندھ ہائیکورٹ نے تھرپاکر میں قحط سالی

اور بچوں کی اموات کا نوٹس لے لیا

ساو تھرپاکر نیوز ایجنسی (شام)۔

8 مارچ 2014

سیچن میں برفانی تودے تلے دب کر شہید ہونے

والے دو سپاہیوں کی لاشیں برآمد

ساو تھرپاکر نیوز ایجنسی (شام)۔

2 مارچ 2014

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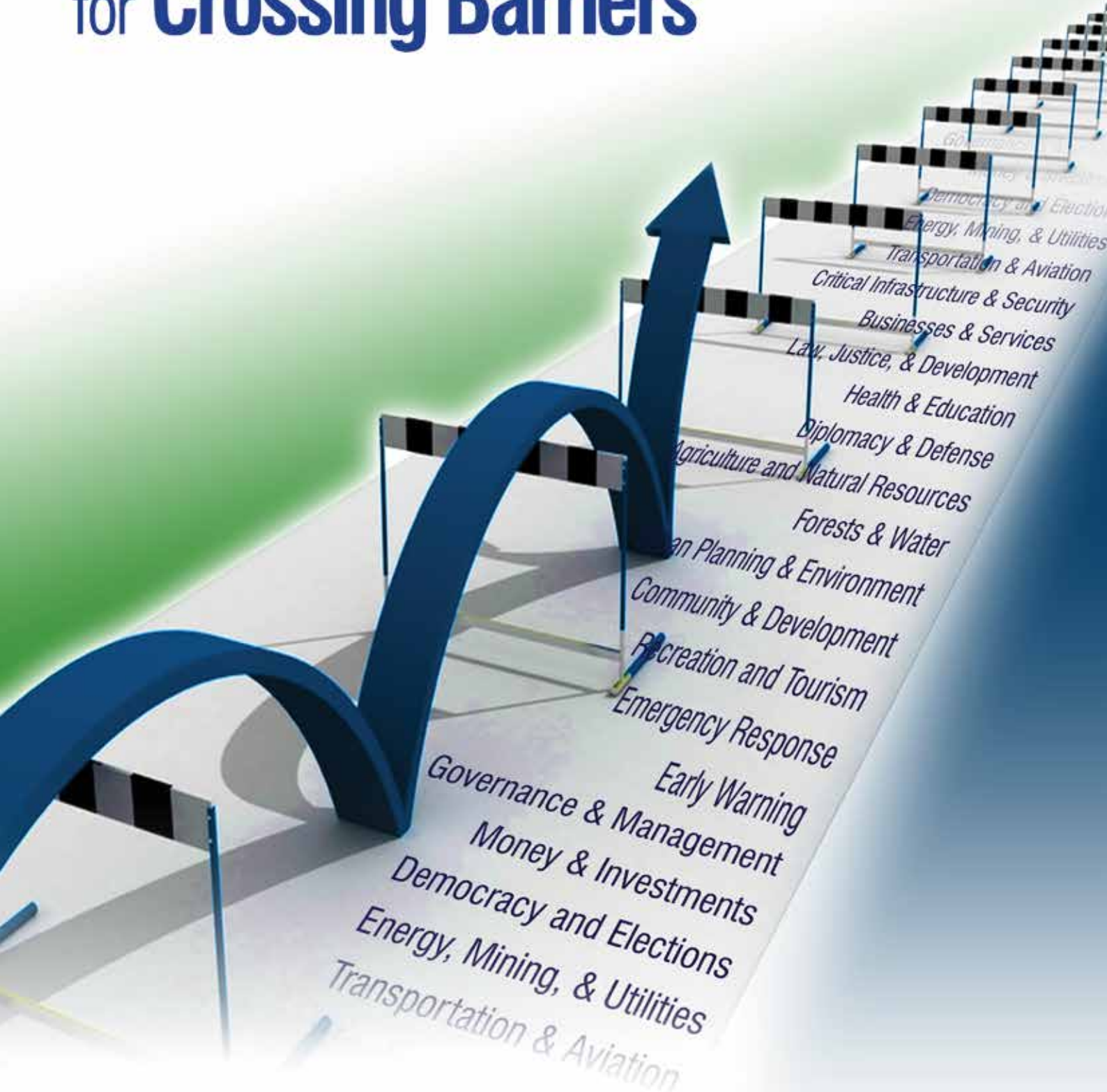
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<p>Mountain and Glacier Protection Organization Local NGO Ms.Aisha Khan CEO aisha@mgpo.org 0092-345-8589001. House No. 73, Street No. 59, Sector: I-8/3, Islamabad www.mgpo.org</p>	<p>Institute for Social and Environmental Transition Local NGO Atta ur Rehman Research Associate atrehman@isetpk.org 0092-345-8569856,0092-51-2552188 House No. 8-B, Street No. 1, Sector: F-8/3, Islamabad www.isetpk.org</p>
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