

CLIMATE BULLETIN

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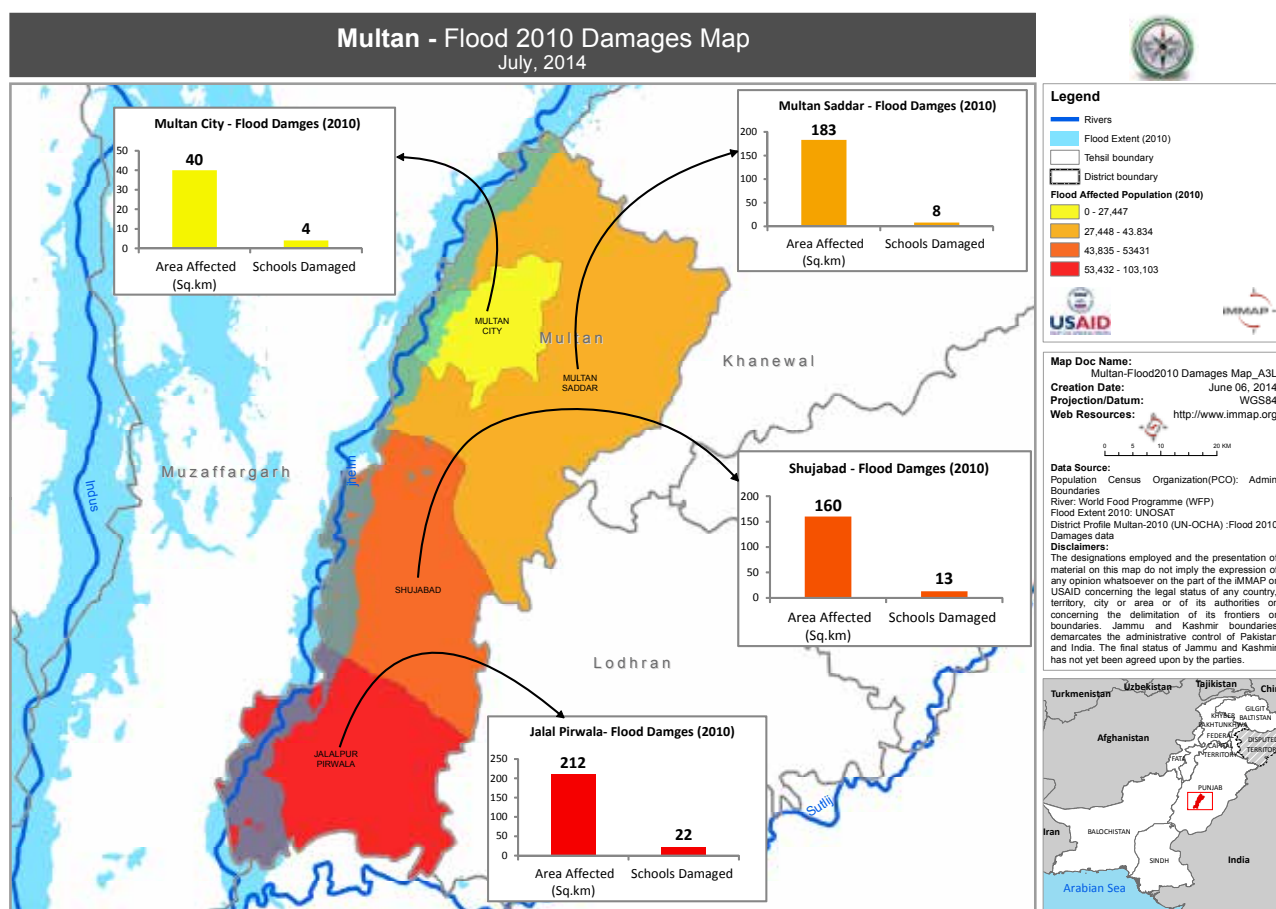
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NEWS HEADLINES

Nine die as heavy rain lashes Lahore, Sialkot
The Statesman, June 30, 2014

3,670 tons of food per month needed to cover displaced families
The News, June 29, 2014

DETAILS

LAHORE: At least nine persons including six children and three women died in separate rain related incidents in Lahore and Sialkot on Saturday night. Reports say five persons were buried under the debris when roof of a house collapsed due to rain in Kot Saeed area of Lahore. Rescue officials evacuated the injured from the debris and shifted them to hospital where an 80-year-old woman and a five-year-old child died. The dead bodies were handed over to the heirs. In another incident, a man namely Arshad died and his wife severely injured when roof of a house collapsed in Domoria Pull area of Lahore. The rescue teams shifted the injured woman to hospital for treatment. Meanwhile, the roof of a house in Gujjarpura village in Sialkot collapsed due to heavy rain killing five children and a woman. Those dead include five children of age 6 months to 10 years of same family. The accident occurred when the roof of labourer Wali Mohammad's house collapsed as result of heavy rain. The accident buried the whole family under the wreckage. Eye witnesses say the late arrival of rescue teams caused the deaths of the children. Wali Mohammed and his daughter survived and were taken to Allama Iqbal Hospital.

ISLAMABAD: The government has provided in-kind assistance of 25,000 metric tons of wheat to the World Food Programme (WFP). Yet, 3,670 tons of food per month is needed to cover the current caseload of over 36,800 families who have been displaced in the wake of the ongoing military operation. A key challenge is the delays that trucks carrying supplies have to face on account of stringent security checks, informs the June 27 situation report release by OCHA here on Friday. To date, donors have committed or contributed over \$18 million to support the provision of life-saving assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). According to OCHA, partners are preparing to apply for Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to fast track the response. With almost no new displacements since June 24, the number of people displaced from North Waziristan Agency (NWA) remains at over 457,000 people, with more than 74 per cent of them women and children. Over 90,000 people have reached Khost, Afghanistan, where they are receiving assistance from humanitarian partners and the government. Unverified reports, according to OCHA, indicate that another approximately 10,000 people are in Paktika and have not been assessed as yet. As of June 27, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata) Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) has registered 457,048 IDPs (36,904 families). Very few registrations have taken place after the re-imposition of curfew from June 24. Reports from the field suggest that a potentially significant number of families who arrived through unfrequented routes remain un-registered. The majority of the displaced families are residing in Bannu district, with others moving to Hangu, Lakki Marwat, Karak, Dera Ismail Khan, Charsadda, Tank and Kohat districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as to other parts of the country. The National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) has started verifying the registered families and so far 17,000 families have been verified according to FDMA. Another 13,500 have been rejected on the basis of issues such as invalid or expired CNICs or invalid family trees. UNHCR is working with FDMA on issues related to registration. According to the OCHA update, people who moved to Bannu are facing hardships due to overwhelmed facilities. Most IDPs are living with friends and relatives or in public buildings and rented houses. Due to high demand, house rents have gone up and the displaced families are finding it hard to cope with the situation. A large number of people have to share small rooms in scorching heat. The government's established camp in FR Bannu has attracted only 28 families. On June 27, the Prime Minister announced Rs20,000 for each family as Ramazan Package. In addition, the government is providing cash assistance of \$200 to each registered family. Thereafter, each family will receive a monthly allowance of \$150. This new allowance aims to enable families to afford the rent required. The government has distributed 8,000 SIM cards for the distribution of cash grants; over 7,085 of these cards have been activated already. The Pakistan Army has commenced distribution of food rations, as provided by the United Arab Emirates. The humanitarian community is supporting the government in provision of emergency health kits, non-food items and food packages. The UN Department for Safety and Security (UN DSS) conducted an assessment of the hosting districts on June 24-25 to identify possible locations for offices and distribution points. A lot still needs to be done in the area of health. Refresher trainings are needed for Lady Health Workers, Lady Health Visitors and Midwives. Partner organisations need to join in to provide mother and child health care services. There are only four female medical officers in Bannu; there is need for more female medical staff. In the wake of upcoming malaria and dengue season, mosquito nets and other measures for mosquito control are also yet to be ensured. Partners also need to start nutrition projects with a prime focus on IDP children in Bannu. Mental and psychological health issues need to be addressed too.

According to the OCHA situation report, the World Health Organisation has provided 12 Emergency Health Kits (enough for 6,000 population per month), one Diarrhoea Disease Kit (enough for 9,000 population per month) and 50,000 Oral Rehydration Solutions for Bannu. DDKs are already propositioned in Dera Ismail Khan. Moreover, WHO's environmental health engineers have started baseline survey of water quality in Bannu. Out of 395 tube wells in the district, selected water sources are being assessed. WHO will guide chlorination and other measures for safe drinking water; will provide hygiene kits and conduct community health and hygiene sessions; and will conduct training sessions for the staff of public health engineering department to strengthen capacity for water testing and chlorination. A three-day polio immunisation campaign in district Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan concluded on June 26. Both Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan Expanded Programme on Immunisation departments have prepositioned vaccines as per projected demand. However, DHOs need to devise a plan for routine vaccination of children because vaccination coverage in Fata is generally poor and the

Flood protection plan to be implemented from July 1

The Nation June 28, 2014

PEC, USAID to develop building codes for infrastructure, human lives

The Statesman, June 27, 2014

Natural resources shrinking

The Nation/AFP, June 26, 2014

Wind storm hits Thatta, Sujawal

The Statesman, June 25, 2014

More dust storm with thundershower forecast

The Nation, June 23, 2014

Floodwater inundates three villages in Swat

Dawn, June 22, 2014

risk of these diseases increases significantly, not only among the displaced population, but also for the host community.

According to the initial Wash assessments conducted by local partners and available secondary data, water and sanitation facilities are immediately needed in formal and informal camps, particularly in schools and hosting communities where IDPs have taken refuge. The general hygiene condition in the displaced population is also very poor and the possibility of any WASH-related disease outbreak cannot be ruled out. The tehsil management administration and fire brigade are jointly distributing drinking water through water tankers. On June 27, they distributed 96,000 litres of drinking water to IDPs in Bannu City, the OCHA situation report informs.

RAWALPINDI: Rescue Services have prepared a flood protection plan which would be enforced after July 1. Director General Punjab emergency Services -Rescue 1122 Dr. Rizwan Naseer said a flood protection plan has been prepared to deal with possible flooding during the upcoming monsoon season. He said all arrangements to face any disaster situation have been completed, and Rescue teams are already prepared to handle any emergency circumstances.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) and USAID are going to develop building codes for curtailing the losses of infrastructure and human lives associated with power, communication and manufacturing sectors by providing proper safety equipment, standards and procedures. Addressing the engineers who successfully completed Continuing Professional Development (CPD) short course on Project Procurement and Contract Administration (Part-IV), Khadim Hussain Bhatti, Secretary and Registrar of PEC informed that for the development and facilitation of the construction industry and regulatory authorities, PEC in collaboration with relevant stakeholder have taken several initiatives for earthquake resistant, safe and energy efficient environment. PEC and USAID under its 'Power Distribution Programme' have come forward to jointly collaborate for the development of Building Code of Pakistan (Seismic Provisions-2007), Building Code of Pakistan (Energy Provisions-2011), Building Guidelines for Safe and Sustainable Housing in Gilgit-Baltistan Areas (2013), Building Code of Pakistan (Fire Safety Provisions - under development) and Development of National Electric Safety Code (NESC), he added.

NAIROBI: The accelerated and unsustainable exploitation of the earth's primary natural resources has become a major threat to apes in Africa and Asia, a major United Nations environment conference heard Wednesday. Speaking on the sidelines of the UN Environment Assembly, conservationists said infrastructure development and extraction of natural resources - including timber, minerals, oil and gas - have devastated the prime habitat of apes and pushed chimpanzees, gorillas, bonobos, orangutans and gibbons closer to extinction. 'There's absolutely no doubt that extractive industries are severely impacting on apes and their habitats,' said Helga Rainer, conservation director of the Great Apes programme at the Arcus Foundation, the world's largest private funder of ape conservation. 'Only five out of 27 ape (habitats) do not have a mining project within their range... and there is also an indirect impact associated with infrastructure development such as roads and railways,' she added. But while the cost to apes of economic development has been acknowledged for decades, researchers say more needs to be done to integrate their preservation into broader social, economic and environmental policies.

THATTA: Wind storm hit coastal areas of Thatta and Sujawal districts and hilly tract of Kohistan on Tuesday. Roofs of hutments in several villages were blown off. Roofs of several poultry farms were also blown off causing losses to the poultry farmers. Growers also complained of losses to their standing crops including vegetables. Electric power broke down in almost all parts of the district. There was no electricity in twin cities of Thatta and Makli and other parts of the district since morning. Trade and business activity was adversely affected due to eclectic power failures.

LAHORE: Parts of the country received showers with dust raising winds on Sunday, decreasing temperature during the day and at nighttime. Experts have predicted more rains with gusty winds for parts of the country during the next couple of days. Pre monsoon rains will reduce the intensity of heat wave in parts of the country by maintaining the mercury to a low level. Rain-thundershower occurred at scattered places in upper/central Punjab and at isolated places in Malakand and Hazara divisions. Patches of clouds, scattered showers and strong winds reduced the intensity of heat wave by lowering mercury level. On Sunday, maximum and minimum temperature in the City was recorded 38 degree Celsius and 21 C respectively. Relative humidity in the evening was recorded 34 per cent. According to the experts, seasonal low lies over Baluchistan and adjoining areas. Moist currents from Arabian Sea are penetrating into upper and central parts of the country. A shallow westerly wave is also prevailing over central/upper parts of the country. Local meteorological department has forecast dust storm with rain-thundershower at scattered places in Faisalabad, Sargodha, Sahiwal, Multan, D G Khan, Bahawalpur divisions and at isolated places in Hazara, Gujranwala, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Sukkar, Larkana divisions, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan during the next couple of days.

MINGORA: Over 50 families shifted to higher ground and safer places after floodwater from swollen Swat River inundated three villages here on Saturday. Bakht Rahim, a local volunteer at Sherabad, told Dawn that Swat River was in flood and the overflowing water entered three villages, including Sherabad, Sultanabad and Malakabad, located along the river bank. At least 50 families have shifted to higher ground to save their lives and belongings after floodwater entered their houses, the residents said. According to the irrigation department, Swat River was in low flood at Khwazakhela where the water flow was recorded at 18,414 cusecs in the morning. "Our houses are inundated by floodwater," Mr Rahim said and added that all the children and

Sustainable energy project launched

Dawn, June 19, 2014

women had been shifted to safer places while the men were monitoring the flood situation. Meanwhile, Swat district administration has issued directives to the villagers residing near Swat River to stay alert. Deputy commissioner Mehmood Aslam Wazir on Saturday visited the affected villages, including Sherabad, Ogdu, Malakabad and Sultanabad, where he announced that they would soon provide 80 tents and foodstuff to the affected population. Assistant commissioner Ashfaq claimed that the local administration had completed repair work on the safety wall near Angrodheri.

ISLAMABAD: A 'Sustainable Energy for All' hub for Asia and Pacific was launched on Wednesday aimed at mobilising investment and finding innovative ways to bring clean, modern energy to people in the region. With the creation of the hub, the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) was formally launched during the course of 'Asia Clean Energy Forum' at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) headquarters in Manila. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in partnership with the UNDP and ADB simultaneously launched a 'Regional Hub' to tackle energy issues at the country level. It is estimated that 628 million people in the Asia-Pacific region – almost half the world's energy poor – do not have access to electricity and more than 1.8 billion people are using traditional fuels, such as wood. Recognising the need to bring sustainable energy to all globally, UN declared 2014-2024 as the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL), underscoring the importance of energy in the post-2015 development agenda. It is one of three regional hubs under the global Sustainable Energy for All Initiative set up in 2011 by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with three objectives to be met by 2030: to ensure universal access to modern energy services; double the annual global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. The hub will leverage the existing structures of ADB, UNDP and ESCAP energy programmes and support to countries in conducting rapid assessments, building constructive dialogue on policy, and catalysing investments and mobilising bilateral and global funds for clean energy development. Asia's demand for energy is soaring as the region's economies expand apace and as populations move to cities where energy use is higher. By 2035, developing Asia will account for 56 per cent of global primary energy use, up from 34pc in 2010. This needs to be met by increasing the use of renewable energy and by achieving greater energy efficiency if the environment is to be safeguarded. Access to electricity, particularly from clean energy resources, and to improved cook-stoves can have tremendous impacts on the environment and the socio-economic situation of people. It provides the opportunity for income-generating activities, improves conditions for students and reduces the strains on environment, especially through the reduction of GHG emissions and indoor air pollution. The International Energy Agency estimates that Asia and the Pacific will need investments of more than \$200bn to provide full access to energy by 2030. ADB invested \$2.3bn in 2013 in clean energy and has pledged to continue investments of at least \$2bn per year. Pakistan's representation at the energy forum is missing, while on the other hand, a high-level ministerial dialogue with energy ministers from Bhutan, Japan, Maldives, Philippines, and Tajikistan, is discussing the three-fold energy problem of energy affordability, sustainability, and energy security during the five-day forum meeting.

Country in grip of severe heat

The Nation, June 17, 2014

LAHORE: Parts of the country remained in the grip of severe heat wave on Monday with experts predicting the prevailing harsh weather conditions to persist during the next couple of days. Frequent tripping and unscheduled load shedding added to the woes of heat stricken people. Weather remained very hot and dry in most parts of the country. However, Rawalpindi, Malakand and Hazara divisions received scattered thundershowers. As monsoon incursions have started reaching upper parts of the country, increasing humidity has made the weather more oppressive. Pre monsoon rains are likely to decrease intensity of heat wave in upper parts from Tuesday evening. However, people in central and southern parts will continue to experience extremely hot weather conditions. Sibbi remained hottest place in the country where mercury rose as high as 48.5 degree Celsius. Maximum temperature in Bannu was recorded 47 C, Bhakkar 46.5 C, Dadu and Bahawalnagar 46 C, Okara, D G Khan, R Y Khan, Noor pur Thal, Mianwali, Risalpur, Sargodha and Jacobabad 45 C. In Lahore, maximum and minimum temperature was recorded 45 C and 31 C respectively. Relative humidity in the evening was recorded 25 per cent. People avoided unnecessarily coming out, decreasing traffic on otherwise busy roads at noon and in the afternoon. Lahore canal, as usual, attracted a large number of people including women and children. Not only youth but also elderly people were seen taking bath in the canal water. At certain places, even women were seen beating the heat by taking a dip in the mud coloured water. According to the experts, seasonal low lies over Balochistan and adjoining areas. Moist currents from Arabian Sea are penetrating into upper parts of the country. A shallow westerly wave is affecting upper parts of the country. The meteorological department has forecast mainly hot and dry weather for most parts of the country during the next couple of days. However, rain-thundershower associated with gusty/dust raising winds is expected at scattered places in Kashmir, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Gujranwala, Lahore, Malakand, Hazara, Peshawar divisions and Gilgit-Baltistan. On Monday, Rawalakot received 13 mm rain, Garhidupatta 09 mm, Mirkhani and Kotli 08 mm each, Murree 07 mm, Balakot 04 mm, Dir and Zhob 02 mm each.

Climate change affecting several sectors of wealth

The Statesman/PPI, June 16, 2014

PESHAWAR: Climate change is affecting almost all the sectors of our economy, particularly water resources, energy, health and biodiversity, with a major impact on agricultural productivity. This is due to changes in temperature, adverse effect on land and water resources and enhanced frequency and intensity of natural hazards such as droughts and floods, says new Economic Survey of Pakistan 2013-2104. Dry land areas, such as arid and semi-arid regions are most vulnerable to these climate changes. Such regions are already facing significant water shortages and temperatures are already close to their tolerance limits. The increasing

temperatures increase crop stresses, change irrigation water requirements, and increase the risk of pests and diseases. Water demands of the country are met by Indus River System that is fed by glaciers in Hindukush Karakoram ranges which are believed to be receding under influence of climate change and global warming. The melting of these glaciers will result in increased water flows for a few decades followed by reduced river flows as the glaciers get depleted. Despite being a low Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emitter (1% of global emissions), Pakistan is bearing the brunt of climate change related disasters at a high cost to its economy. It therefore, requires concerted efforts to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and relatively fewer efforts to carry out mitigation measures. A number of measures are needed to be taken to address both mitigation and adaptation aspects of climate change through enhancing various ongoing efforts and initiating new activities, as described below. Environmental degradation may cost Pakistan's economy over Rs 365 billion every year of which inadequate water supply, sanitation and hygiene accounts for Rs 112 billion, agricultural soil degradation Rs 70 billion, indoor pollution Rs 67 billion, urban air pollution Rs 65 billion, lead exposure Rs 45 billion and land degradation and deforestation Rs 6 billion. According to the survey, some environmental experts believe that the environmental degradation cost must have increased beyond Rs 450 billion per year.

Pakistan is facing serious challenges of environmental pollution that include, land degradation, water contamination and air pollution. Freshwater and industrial pollutions are mostly unchecked and may get worse unless economic activity is underpinned with sustainable development. Major big challenges include: water and air pollution are causing widespread diseases, rapid recession of Hindu Kush Karakoram Himalayan glaciers are affecting the magnitude and pattern of water inflows into the Indus River System and reduced agriculture productivity in arid and semi-arid regions is due to increased heat- and water- stress as well as more frequent and intense floods and droughts. Pakistan is a country of 188 million people with average population density of 236 persons per sq. km, which is higher as compared to many other developing countries. The country has very high migration rate to urban centers which has made the cities very congested and has made the civic infrastructure inadequate. Air quality data recorded in cities confirmed presence of high concentration of suspended particulate matter in air (2-3.5 times higher than the safe limit). Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) is continuously increasing in major cities mainly due to increased number of CNG operated vehicles. Formation of photo-chemical smog and haze is a common phenomenon in our cities. Brick kilns are another source of pollution in many areas. The use of low-grade coal and old tires in brick kilns generates dense black smoke and other kinds of emissions. The main pollutants from these industries are particulate matter, and sulphur.

Water

In 1947, the water availability in Pakistan was 5,650 cubic meter per person, which kept on decreasing, first due to Indus Water Treaty, 1960. Secondly, gradual decline in trans-boundary flows into Pakistan which has been alarmingly up to the tune of 10.25 MAF, and, thirdly, exceptional growth in population of the country, all making per capita water availability in Pakistan to as low as 964 cubic meters per year which is creating water deficit and hampering well-being and, at the same time, severely affecting future economic development. The situation is aggravating due to excessive reliance on underground water which is meeting more than 60% of agriculture needs. It is not only resulting in salinity but also contamination of aquifers with heavy traces of fluoride and arsenic. Climate change is also expected to have extreme effects on the glaciers which contribute over 70% of our water resources and may reduce the water availability by 30% to 40%. Furthermore, our productivity per unit of water and land is one of the lowest in the world. According to Pakistan Millennium Development Goals Report 2013, access to sanitation facilities are available to 72 percent of the total population while the target is to provide safe sanitation facilities to 90 percent of the total population by 2015. The forests cover about 5.2 percent of the land area of Pakistan but it is still short of the 6 percent MDG target. The low share of the forest area taken in combination with the large population of Pakistan gives only 0.033 hectares of forest per capita compared with the world average of one hectare.

Cyclone ceases coastal life

The Nation, June 16, 2014

KARACHI: After three days of tension and uncertainty due to fear of high tides, followed by tropical cyclone developed in the Gulf region, people on coastal areas were seen taking sigh of relief. However, stagnant water in the villages, acute shortage of drinking water and food in the entire coastal region from Karachi to Thatta, Sujawal and Badin have put the people vulnerable to face uncertainty for the next few days. The people in Karachi coastal areas are struggling to move back to their localities but since there is stagnant water, which have inundated their shelters, many of them are still out and waiting for help. Information collected on Sunday from Shah Bunder, Jati and Ketu Bunder by rescue teams revealed that the situation was quite devastating, as the families were out of food and short of potable water. Minors and elders were being affected the most, the rescue sources said. Despite hue and cry, officers of the district administration paid empty visits and assured the people for help, but did nothing. Their ignorance has left them devastated with hunger and displacement. Hundreds of families either are onboard their fishing vessels or staying at their shelters rooftop without water and food. Especially those, residing at remote island villages, are facing problems due to the perturbed access to reach the beaches to buy eatables. The roads in Shah Bunder, Khario Chhhan and Jati have also been disconnected due to high tides. It was the common cry in the entire Sindh coastal areas that the low lying localities have been inundated and the families are marooned there. They have not received any relief goods, ration and medicine. The elders were looking enraged crying against such ignorance, saying they were not even being provided potable water to drink. Their children are compelled to use stagnant sea water to quench their thirst. Mustafa Gurgaiz of Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF), while mobilising resources, said that the pressure of high tides in the

Earthquake tremors felt in Peshawar, surrounding areas

Daily Dawn, June 14, 2014

Quake rocks parts of Balochistan

Daily Dawn, June 14, 2014

Seawater inundates Karachi coastal areas before cyclone

The Statesman, June 13, 2014

Flood Emergency Cell established

The Statesman/Report, June 13, 2014

Cyclone may trigger rains in coastal areas

Dawn, June 12, 2014

sea was still persisting, forcing people to stay alert. Quoting community elders, he said that the seven-day full moon season would be weakened until Monday morning. On a question about the appeals for relief, Gurgaiz said that the district administration had provided cooked food and potable water in the coastal areas, including Bin Qasim Town. "Apart from this, fearing any health problem due to stagnant water and pollution, we have also mobilised medical camps with the support of local people to provide medicines to the affected people," he added. Several women and children who complained of the skin problems were provided with medicines and guidance to avert any outbreak. PFF Chairperson Mohammed Ali Shah said that it was a colossal loss and the people were paying the price of the ignorance at the hands of government. All the jetties and protection walls along the coastal localities had been affected badly, he revealed. "Now the people cannot get any support from the government authorities, elected legislators and philanthropists, except a few, who extended helping hand to help the people in Karachi coastal areas," he added.

ISLAMABAD: A moderate earthquake struck northwest Pakistan, causing panic in towns and cities, but there are no immediate reports of casualties or damage, an official said. Mohammad Riaz, a senior scientist at the Pakistan Meteorological Department, said the magnitude 6.0 quake was felt in the northwestern city of Peshawar and several nearby areas on Saturday. He said the quake's epicentre was located in the Hindu Kush in neighbouring Afghanistan. Peshawar is the capital of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan. Pakistan is often hit by earthquakes. In September 2013, a magnitude-7.7 quake struck the Balochistan province, killing at least 376 people and creating a new island in the Arabian Sea. Earlier on Friday, a 5.3-magnitude earthquake had struck southwestern Pakistan with its epicentre in the city of Khuzdar, in Balochistan province and at a depth of 26 kilometres. The quake, which struck late morning, was also felt in surrounding towns and districts.

QUETTA: A 5.3-magnitude earthquake struck southwestern Pakistan on Friday, but officials said there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties. The epicentre was in the city of Khuzdar, at a depth of 26km, meteorological official Zabihullah said. The quake, which struck in the morning, was also felt in surrounding towns and districts. A 7.7-magnitude earthquake devastated several areas in Balochistan in September last year. It killed at least 370 people and left 100,000 homeless.

KARACHI: Sea water inundated Karachi coastal areas like Sandspit and Hawksbay ahead of cyclone on Thursday. According to reports, upto three feet sea water inundated Rehri Goth, Lakh Basti, Dabla Mohallah, Chashma Goth. Meanwhile, Sindh CM asks Commander Karachi and DC Thatta and other institutions to remain alert. The met office informed that a Tropical Cyclone is developing in eastern parts of Arabian Sea that is likely to move in northwesterly direction towards Oman coast in next couple of days. Due to north-westward movement of Tropical Cyclone, the current intense heat-wave over Pakistan is likely to further intensify and would extend toward northward including Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Upper Punjab during the weekend. The prevailing intense pre-monsoon heat would continue for another five days in most parts of the country, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD). The prevailing intense heat is likely to subside after pre-monsoon rain and thundershowers accompanied by dust-storms over Islamabad, Upper Punjab, Upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Kashmir on Monday or Tuesday. The heat wave would also envelop northern areas including Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir during the coming weekend, triggering large scale snow-melting from Friday to Monday. The inflows in all hilly rivers of Upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan-Kashmir and Tarbela Dam may increase substantially during the weekend.

PESHAWAR: As per annual practice at the start of Flood Season 2014, a Flood Emergency Cell has been established in the office of Executive Engineer Hydrology Irrigation Division Peshawar which would start functioning round the clock with effect from June 15, 2014. The Executive Engineer, Hydrology Irrigation Division Peshawar has already been nominated as focal person in connection with the flood duties / reporting for flood season 2014. The Flood Emergency Cell obtains information from different gauge stations of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the data primarily relates to the river flows / discharges at critical stations and other important control points. The officers/officials on duty would be available at telephone No. 091-9212114/091-9211907 for 24 hours including closed holidays for the entire monsoon season 2014. Information desired by any Ministry/Division/Department with regard to river flow data can be obtained from the above telephone numbers. The Executive Engineer Hydrology Irrigation Division Peshawar at 091-9212114, 091-9211907 and Fax No. 091-9212114 and Engr. Sohail Khan Sub divisional Officer Hydrology, Irrigation Sub division Peshawar at 091-9211907, 03329999191 and Munir ud Din, Draftsman (Supervisor) at 03219018977, says a notification issued here by the Irrigation Division Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Peshawar.

KARACHI: Cyclone 'Nanauk' is moving fast towards the Omani coastal areas but the developing weather condition may lead to light to moderate rains in parts of Sindh and Balochistan within the next couple of days, said a Met official on Wednesday. "The cyclone poses no threat to Pakistan and its coastal belts," said chief meteorologist Tauseef Alam. "It's likely to hit Oman's coastal belt on June 14 or 15, but it will definitely affect weather in Pakistan's coastal areas, a few cities and towns in Balochistan and Sindh." He said the developing weather in the Arabian Sea would keep the coastal cities of Sindh and Balochistan cloudy and there could be light to moderate rains in the next two to three days in Gawadar, Karachi and other areas along the sea. "The Balochistan portion of the Arabian Sea is also expected to stay moderate to rough within the next couple of days, but in Sindh it would be normal," he added.

Heat wave to continue

The Nation, June 11, 2014

Country to sizzle in severe heatwave till mid-June

The Nation, June 09, 2014

World Oceans Day 2014: 'Karachi kills more fish than it eats'

The Express tribune, June 08, 2014

LAHORE: Plains of the country remained in the grip of severe heat wave on Tuesday with frequent tripping and unscheduled loadshedding adding to the woes of heat stricken people. Experts have predicted the prevailing harsh weather conditions to persist till mid June. Experts have predicted decrease in the intensity of prevailing heat in Islamabad, upper Punjab, upper Khyber PK, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir from next Monday evening (June 16). Turbat remained hottest place in the country where mercury rose as high as 50 degree Celsius. Maximum temperature in Bhakkar was recorded 49 C, Sibbi, Dadu and Shorkot 48 C, Noorpur Thal, Mandi Bahauddin and Bahawalnagar 47 C, Mianwali, Sukkur, Jehlum, Kasur, D I Khan, Sargodha, Jaccobabad, Shaheed Benazirabad, Jhang and Faisalabad 46 C. In Lahore, maximum and minimum temperature was recorded 46 C and 28 C respectively. Relative humidity in the evening was recorded 12 per cent. People avoided unnecessarily coming out, decreasing traffic on otherwise busy roads at noon and in the afternoon. Lahore canal, as usual, attracted a large number of people including women and children. Not only youth but also elderly people were seen taking bath in the canal water. At certain places, even women were seen beating the heat by taking a dip in the mud coloured water. According to the experts, seasonal low lies over Balochistan and adjoining areas. Continental air is prevailing over most parts of the country. Local meteorological department has forecast extremely hot and dry weather for most parts of the country during the next couple of days.

LAHORE: Lack of rains and abundance of sunshine has raised mercury 4-6 degree Celsius above normal level, causing plains in the country to sizzle in severe heatwave. With above normal rains in May delaying onset of proper summer, persistent dryness has resulted into considerable increase in temperature and as such start of usual harsh weather conditions. "Lack of rains and windstorm, abundance of sunshine for last couple of weeks has considerably increased mercury level in plains. Maximum temperature is 4-6 C above normal level in different cities. Minimum temperature is also 2-3 C above normal level. The prevailing conditions are likely to persist till mid June as no significant rain giving system is approaching the country," said meteorological expert Shaukat Ali Awan, adding, temperature would hover in the same range till development of a local system or pre-monsoon rains. "Westerly waves are usually weak in June. Delayed start of monsoon in India will affect weather in Pakistan. This is transitional phase and as such the prevailing conditions will persist till monsoon incursions from Bay of Bengal start reaching Pakistan," Shaukat Awan said. Plains of the country sizzled in severe heatwave on Sunday with frequent tripping and unscheduled load-shedding adding to the woes of heat-stricken people. Experts have predicted the prevailing harsh weather conditions to persist during the next couple of days. Jacobabad, Moenjodaro, Dadu, Shaheed Benazirabad and Sibbi remained hottest places in the country where mercury rose as high as 49 C. Maximum temperature in Sukkur, Pasni, Kasur, Bhakkar, Lasbella and Noorpur Thal was recorded 48 C, Padidan, Okara, Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalnagar and Larkana 47 C. In Lahore, maximum and minimum temperature was recorded 46 C and 29 C respectively. Relative humidity in the evening was recorded 11 percent. People avoided unnecessary outing, decreasing traffic on otherwise busy roads at noon and in the afternoon. Lahore canal, as usual, attracted a large number of people including women and children. Not only youth but also elderly people were seen taking bath in the canal water. At certain places, even women were seen beating the heat by taking a dip in the mud coloured water.

According to the experts, seasonal low lies over north Balochistan and adjoining areas. Local meteorological department has forecast mainly hot and dry weather for most parts of the country during the next couple of days. However, isolated rain-thunderstorm is expected in Malakand division, Lower Sindh and Gilgit-Baltistan during evening/night.

KARACHI: A person living in Karachi eats around 1.8kg of fish a year but the plastic bags he/she uses adds over 25,000 pieces of plastic into the sea, and each piece can kill a fish. These dismal statistics were shared by the director-general of the National Centre for Maritime Policy Research (NCMPR) Vice Admiral Asaf Humayun HI (M) (retd) in an interview with The Express Tribune in light of World Oceans Day, celebrated every year on June 8 all over the world. Almost 400 million gallons of water goes into the sea but only 50 million is purified. According to the admiral, if the authorities invest more money there would be more plants to treat the dirty water. He was referring to the S3 plan among the 11 development schemes stopped by the federal government. "Humans are careless by nature," he said. "They dump most of the garbage into the sea even though there are landfill sites available at their disposal." Landfills are basically huge spaces of land dug up to dump garbage. They become reusable after 200 years, he added. "When it comes to the sea, the sad thing is that the plastics last forever and it really affects the marine life living there," said Humayun. Pointing to the history of plastics, he explained how the crude oil sludge was used to invent plastic in the 1930s. "There are options, such as biodegradable plastics, but humankind is bent on doing things that harm nature," he regretted. In China, almost 70 per cent of the population resides along the sea whereas, in Pakistan, only 10 per cent of the population lives along the sea, said Humayun, adding that marine life should be enjoyed by the people not ruined by them. "It's not the case that Karachi is the only city that dumps waste into the sea," he pointed out. "In fact, people in Hawaii dump so much waste in the North Pacific that there are literally floating islands of garbage four feet high." Humayun remembers the time when the nullahs in Karachi were so safe that people would fish there. When the Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 disappeared, Humayun found it interesting how people mistook garbage for debris from the aircraft. "Sometimes I wonder why we call this place Earth when almost 70 per cent of it is water," he joked, hinting at how important marine life is. "Oceans are the biggest source of oxygen and we must pledge to protect them, we owe it to the

Masses urged to support government to overcome environment and climate change issues

The Statesman, June 07, 2014

Sea level rise will bring more cyclones, stormy rains, moot told

The Statesman, June 06, 2014

Balochistan may face drought in future

The Statesman, June 06, 2014

oceans.”

Celebrate the oceans today

The National Centre for Maritime Policy Research Vice Admiral Asaf Humayun HI (M) (retd) said they had planned beach cleaning activities and a carnival to celebrate the World Oceans Day but they had to cancel it due to security risks in the city. However, he shared a list of things to do on the World Ocean Day this year.

PESHAWAR: Participants at a function stressed the need for coordinated efforts with support of masses to overcome with the growing climate change and environmental issues, and called for devising a national action plan in this regard. The function on titled: Raise your voice, Not the sea level was held in connection with on the World Environmental Day, under auspices of the Refugees Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA-UNDP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa programme, funded by European Union in collaboration with the provincial department of environment, and Environment Protection Agency (EPA) at Pakistan Forest Institute (PFI) University of Peshawar. The officials of RAHA-UNDP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa programme, community leaders, students of private and public sector schools, teaching staffs, and notable from UC jogani Peshawar also present on the occasion.

During the function, students of public and private schools delivered speeches and highlighted the significance of the world environment day, and called for proactive steps for coping with increasing global warming issues in the country. Hakeem Shah Director General Pakistan Forest Institute said that they county need to evolve an action plan to tackle with climate change and prevent from environmental degradation. He attributed the growing deforestation is the main hurdle to overcome with the climate change issues. Ilyas Khan, District Manager, said the RAHA has undertaken initiative with support of government line departments and agencies to take jointly steps for protection of environment, especially in refugees affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, besides interventions in social and developmental activities in its targeted union councils. Dr Amjad, Deputy Director EPA in his keynote address said that the county is being faced with numerous challenges due to increasing environment degradation and climate change. The agency official said laws are existed to protect and safe environment, but there was only need public support for their fully implementation, which could enable the government and relevant line agencies, in addressing climate change issues. Later, DD Environment Protection Agency distributed gifts and trophies among top position holders in speeches contest during the function.

HYDERABAD: To mark World Environment Day 2014, Society for Environmental Actions, Re-Construction and Humanitarian (SEARCH) response Pakistan held a meeting at its office here on Thursday, which was attended by representatives of different civil society organization. Addressing the meeting, SEARCH Pakistan Executive Director Waheed Jamali said that concern was being shown over the rising sea level in the world because the change in the natural level of oceans had become a critical problem, which could more cause cyclones and stormy rains. It has been observed that human activities and disposing off sewerage, medical waste and industrial effluent hasbadly affected sea life and if such discharge of waste is continued, a time will come when sea life will be no more, hence, there is dire need to take actions to stop such anti-nature attitude, Jamali said. He said that oceans have been eroding coastal areas due rise in their levels as a result agriculture land, water sources, forests and other precious assets are being destroyed. He said that the world sea level had risen from 4 to 8 inches during the last century. The sea level rises by 0.13 inches annually, which is very dangerous for humanity and nature, Jamali said. Director Sindh Development Society Ghafar Malik said that the sea level rise was not a new thing as it has been happening since long time. He stressed the need to stop rise in sea level. Regional Manager Pakistan Fishersfolk Forum Suhail Siddiqui said : World temperature rise in the environment is called global warming which is happening due to rise in emergences of some gases. Indus Future Foundation Director Asghar Leghari said that every year 6.6 billion metric tones of fossil fuel is burning across the world in which 70 is burnt by industrialized countries, causing environmental degradation. The US contributes 32.2 fossil fuel burning, while West Europe has 26.1 percent contribution in this regard, and it also contributes 16.6 percent of total carbon dioxide in world environment, he informed. Sindhi Hari Porhiyat Council President Punhal Sario said that the environmental degradation could not be reduced till encouraging environment-friendly activities. He said that water supply from Indus River to Sindh Dlta has been stopped by building dams and banks, while natural and beautiful forests across Pakistan has been hacked ruthlessly. He said that a city, bigger than Karachi is being established in Thatta district that would contain big industrial zoon that would emit massive carbon dioxide and other gases due to burning of fossil fuel. Such industries will not only destroy atmosphere but also cause discharged of industrial waste directly into the sea, he said. The meeting was also attended by HRCP Coordinator Dr Ashu Tama, Sindh Community Foundation.

QUETTA: Balochistan province is feared to face drought like situation in future due to deforestation and rising environmental pollution. This was said in a seminar on environment organised by Environmental Protection Agency Balochistan (EPAB), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Lead Pakistan, here on Thursday. Advisor to Chief Minister Balochistan on Environment, Forests and Wildlife, Obaidullah Jan Babat emphasized the need to construct more dams in Balochistan to preserve rain water and put a halt to damages caused by flash floods. He said that his department would take measures on priority basis to stop deforestation and environmental pollution. Pakistan Muslim League-N, MPA, Prince Ahmed Ali said poaching of endangered wildlife species was being done at a large scale in Balochistan. He

Vanishing coastal resources

The Nation, June 05, 2014

Experts warn food crisis may aggravate in Pakistan

The Statesman, June 04, 2014

Rs700 million for SUPARCO

The Statesman, June 04, 2014

MoU inked to make KP disaster-resilient province

The Statesman, June 03, 2014

Mild quake hits KP

The Statesman, June 02, 2014

underlined the need to adopt latest and modern technology to control damages to be caused by sulphur and mercury emission from power plants of Gaddani Power Parks after they would start functioning. Provincial Secretary Environment, Hafiz Abdul Basit feared that mass migration would take place in different areas of the world due to global warming and environmental destruction. Manager, IUCN Balochistan, Faiz Muhammad Kakar said that poaching of endangered wildlife species continued in Balochistan. He said that deforestation was damaging the ecosystem. Civil society representative, Aarzo Ziaratwal urged people to play their due role for improving environment.

KARACHI: Every passing day brings fading hope for residents of 18 small island villages, located near Thatta district, where once collecting variety of natural food items were main sources of income for community women and children. Besides fish, there are crabs and marori, a precious sea snail, the children catch from the mangrove plants and muddy area near the isolated beaches. This kind of marine food product provides a better source of livelihood to a large number of children living at the islands off the Karachi and Thatta beaches. Now when the entire world nations are celebrating week-long environment day with communities' participation, specially expressing solidarity with the island nations and for those residing at scattered islands through their forefathers, the issue of vanishing coastal resources and the future of islands seems out of agenda of Pakistan government. When contacted, Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) chairperson Mohammed Ali Shah said the sea is under pressure due to over exploitation of fish reserves. "The island communities are vulnerable in the present situation, when impacts of climate change are visible due to sea level rise and vanishing resources," he added.

PESHAWAR: Leading Pakistani scientists have warned the government that the country is approaching towards drastic famine as irrigation lands are being reduced due to shortage of water. Pakistan has produced wheat in surplus quantity, but the recent famine claiming hundreds of lives of children in Thar of Sindh was artificially created by the cruel Feudalism. The increasing population is the real challenge for the country and its policy makers. Biotechnology can bring food security in the country as the technology has great potential to enhance food production. They were speaking at a press conference held at the Latif Ebrahim Jamal (LEJ) National Science Information Center, Karachi University (KU) on Monday. The press conference was addressed by Prof Dr M Iqbal Chaudhry, Director International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences, Karachi University (KU), and Pakistan Biotechnology Information Center (PABIC); Prof. Dr. Anwar Nasim (Chief Patron PABIC, General Secretary Pakistan Academy of Sciences and Chairman Biotechnology Commission Pakistan) and Prof. Dr. Kausar Adulla Malik (Forman Christian College Lahore). The objective of the press conference, organised by Pabic, was to raise awareness about the tremendous potential of biotechnology commercialization for the sustainable development of the economy of Pakistan. On the occasion ISAAA brief 46 was also launched by Prof. Dr. Anwar Nasim. Dr. Iqbal Choudhary said that food crises has become the fundamental issue in Pakistan, the country may face drastic famine in future as irrigation lands are being reduced due to shortage of water.

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has allocated Rs 700 million for Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) under Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for the fiscal year 2014-15 for ongoing schemes. According to the official document of PSDP, an amount of Rs 700 million has been allocated for the ongoing scheme Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite (PRSS) (China) of SUPARCO whereas no budget has been allocated for new schemes in this fiscal year.

PESHAWAR: Provincial Disaster Management Authority, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (PDMA-KP) and Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) in Bangkok have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that sets forth a framework for a collaborative alliance between the two parties. The cooperation would be based on the Road Map for Disaster Risk Management 2014-2019, a comprehensive framework designed by the PDMA-KP to build a disaster resilient province, said a press release issued here on Monday. The scope of collaboration would cover the strengthening of legal and institutional arrangements in support of disaster risk reduction initiatives in the province, capacity development of District Disaster Management Units (DDMUs), and enhancing the resilience of local communities through participatory community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives. "We must build disaster risk management capacities at the district level, and link DDMUs with the communities to make them resilient", said Muhammad Tahir Orakzai, Director General of the PDMA-KP. Orakzai said that ADPC and the PDMA-KP would strive to mainstream disaster risk reduction into development policies, plans and programmes in the province as well as to enhance the national information management systems, visibility of disaster preparedness in the media and awareness of disaster risk reduction among people of the province. He said, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province is at risk of a number of natural hazards including landslides, floods, earthquakes, drought, avalanches and glacial lake outbursts. The most vulnerable entities include schools, housing and health infrastructure. "The severity of the hazards is increased due to climate change and investing in disaster risk management costs much less than disaster response and it is very important for the stability of the province", said Engineer Shah Nasir Khan, Advisor to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Head of newly established DRM/CCA Strategic Unit.

PESHAWAR: A mild earthquake on Sunday jolted Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's capital Peshawar, Chitral, Swat and suburban areas. The quake was measured that of 5.4 magnitude at Richter scale. No loss of life was reported till filling the report. Met Department said that the center of

**National parliamentary
MDGs conference
commencing today**
The Statesman, June 01, 2014

quake was Hindu Kush Mountain in Afghanistan and the depth was around 270 kilometers.

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly of Pakistan is holding the inaugural National Conference on Millennium Development Goals for parliamentary task force today. It is an initiative of a young and dynamic woman Parliamentarian MNA Marriyum Aurangzeb, who is the chairperson for Task Force on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The conference will engage around 90 parliamentarians and legislators from the National Assembly, Senate, four provincial assemblies of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh as well as legislative assemblies of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. The conference will provide interaction among MPs and national and international experts, facilitators and speakers participating and sharing their valuable knowledge on various themes of Pakistan's social development reforms agenda. It will be a watershed in Pakistan's endeavour for equitable and just development of all its citizens as for the first time ever public representatives from all provincial and legislative assemblies, will come together with their counterparts at the National Parliament to show their commitment and ownership towards development with a cohesive approach to deal with basic human issues such as health, education, poverty reduction, women and children, environmental conservation and other related areas. Just to recall the inaugural Millennium Summit 2000, held in New York by bringing together representation of 189 UN member states, announced rights based global commitment, in the shape of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Pakistan committed to 16 targets and 41 indicators against which progress towards achieving the Eight Goals of the MDGs is measured. Time series data available for 33 of these indicators reveal that Pakistan is on track to achieve the targets on 9 indicators, whereas its progress on 24 indicators is off track. Therefore, the present government which is fully committed to make progress on MDGs as well as to provide a comprehensive input on new and inclusive Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), has made an inclusive strategy by forming national and provincial MDGs task forces. These Federal and Provincial Task Forces on MDGs will aim at addressing the challenges and strengthen the legislative, oversight, and representation and play a pro-active role in accelerating the pace in achieving the agreed and committed targets for post 2015 development agenda. These Task Force Groups will be mandated to examine the existing status of the national development agenda and identify the issues and challenges in its full attainment. They will be result oriented and will propose recommendations and develop mechanisms for the effective implementation of the national development in line with Pakistan's national and international commitments. They have also established MDGs desks in Ministry of Planning & Development for dynamic stakeholder consultation at federal and provincial level. The conference will be held from 2nd to 4th of June 2014 at Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services, Islamabad. It will have experts and facilitators from the relevant fields along with members of the national and provincial assemblies, to discuss the issues and design a work plan on how to raise awareness, to hold our governments to account and to draw attention to the post 2015 debate, investigate provincial priorities in greater depth, establish dialogues with members of the public to inform them of the issues and ensure that their voices are heard. Also to engage with local and relevant authorities, civil society organizations, media and the private sector by sharing information and supporting their participation in decision making will be thought of. The conference will have notable and highly qualified experts and parliamentarians from all the political parties speaking on the relevant issues. Speakers of the conference include Baligh ur Rehman, Minister of State of Education, Ms. Saira Afzal Tarrar, Minister of State for Health, Dr. Fehmida Mirza, Former Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah, MNA Shiasta Pervez Malik, MNA Azra Fazal Pechuho, MNA Ayeasha Raza Farooq, MNA Asad Umar, MNA Marvi Memon and Ms. Shahnaz Wazir Ali, former MNA. It will also have various knowledgeable speakers from various international agencies speaking on the relevant topics.

The conference will start with a plenary session on Good Governance, Monitoring & Accountability - Driving the Economic - Social Development Reforms. As peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law, and capable institutions today remain critical and cross-cutting in ensuring a cohesive and sustainable development in most countries around the globe, without that an inclusive sustainable development agenda cannot be adequately planned or achieved. Conference will include sessions in the next two days i.e 3rd and 4th June 2014, on all the eight goals Pakistan is focusing on, which will include the following topics: Tackling Exclusion and Inequality, Making Quality Education Accessible, Gender Mainstreaming and Equality, Roadmap to Healthy Generation, Combating a Disease Ridden Society, The Effect of Climate Change - Integrating Economic, Environmental, & Social Sustainability, Public Private Partnership in Development Discourse of Pakistan, Youth Involvement in Development and Media, Private Sector, and Civil Society - Collaboration for Citizen Development and Democracy. This inaugural National Conference on Millennium Development Goals 2014 is an effort for developing insights among MPs and provide a platform on which the parliamentarians, through discussions and consultations with experts from within as well as from civil society and private sector be able to share relevant knowledge, respective contexts and best practices, emerging parliamentary mechanisms, and modern techniques in good governance as vital tools for providing enabling environment within which the post 2015 development agenda can be formulated and achieved.

HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION'S IN CLIMATE SECTOR

Peace Education and Development(PEAD) Foundation

June 07, 2014

<http://www.pead.org.pk/>

PEAD launches Mine Risk education project

Peshawar: To create awareness among Internally Displaced Children (IDC) and community members of FATA that to how to remain safe from landmines, explosive remnants of war and UXOs, specialised training sessions under Mine Risk Education project is in progress in Peshawar Valley, Lower Kurram Agency and Jalozai Camp, Nowshera.

Launched by Peace Education and Development (PEAD) Foundation in collaboration with UNESCO, under MRE project so far 14 training sessions on prevention measures against natural disasters and man-made disasters had also been conducted in Jalozai Camp and in different parts of Peshawar valley.

For the purpose professional trainers including senior officials of Civil Defense Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are providing training with the support of PEAD and UNESCO. So far 450 young IDPs of FATA, currently residing at Khurasan, Khazana, Landi Arbab, Peshtakhara, Sufaid Deri, Khairabad and Jalozai Camp have been equipped with first aid skills to take preventive and safety measures in case of any emergency or unpleasant incident like blast, flood and earthquake occur.

Tariq Hayat, Manager Programmes KP, during a session here at Jalozai Camp, told journalists that people living in FATA and other conflict stricken regions of the province are the most vulnerable communities at present, who most often become victims of landmine explosions particularly children become victims of toy like bombs, unexploded shells and mines excavated by insurgents, due to lack of knowledge and awareness.

He further said it is the need of the hour to inculcate safety measures in regular schooling system to aware children that how to remain safe in mine-affected environment or how to respond if any untoward incident takes place in their region.

The trainings will help affectees to respond effectively to natural and manmade emergencies as well, he maintained adding beside 500 children, 100 master trainers will also be trained and tasked to spread awareness about the safety measures from landmines and other unexploded ordinance.

UNDP-Pakistan

June, 2014

www.pk.undp.org/

Sustainable Land Management to Combat Desertification

The project aims to combat land degradation & desertification in Pakistan in order to protect and restore degraded ecosystems and essential ecosystem services that are key to reducing poverty. The Sustainable Land Management Project (SLMP) Phase-I has been designed to implement United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and for combating land degradation & desertification in Pakistan with the involvement of key stakeholders. This is a multi-sectoral project which requires a long-term strategy in order to ensure that project benefits are sustained.

World Food Programme (WFP)

June 26, 2014

<http://www.wfp.org/countries/pakistan>

WFP To Provide Food To 450,000 People Displaced From North Waziristan

ISLAMABAD – The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is rapidly scaling up food distributions aiming to reach approximately half a million recently displaced people from North Waziristan. Since the start of food distributions on Sunday, 22 June, WFP has provided 15-day food rations more than 4,600 families in Bannu and Lakki Marwat districts.

World Food Programme (WFP)

June 13, 2014

<http://www.wfp.org/countries/pakistan>

Humanitarian Response Facility In Balochistan To Enhance Disaster Preparedness

QUETTA, PAKISTAN – The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) today handed over management of a Humanitarian Response Facility (HRF) to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan in Chashma Achozai, Quetta district. This is the second WFP-built facility to be handed over to the government; the first was in Muzaffargarh district of Punjab province in February this year.

Relief-web Pakistan

June 29, 2014

<http://reliefweb.int/country/pak>

U.A.E. implements 76 clean water projects across Pakistan

In line with the directives of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the U.A.E. Pakistan Assistance Programme, U.A.E. PAP, has so far implemented more than 70 projects at a cost of more than US\$6.9 million to bring clean drinking water to people across Pakistan's provinces.

U.A.E PAP said US\$6,973,000 were spent on 76 water projects which include digging wells, building water desalination plants, tanks and pumps and building water supply systems for tens of thousands of households in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Waziristan where locals had to travel away from their houses to get clean water.

These include 44 projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 20 in South Waziristan, in the first phase, and 12 others in Mohmand Agency and two in North Waziristan in the second phase of the U.A.E. PAP's water assistance plan for Pakistan.

The U.A.E. PAP was launched in line with the directives of President His Highness Shaikh

Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan on 12 January 2011 to help Pakistan overcome the consequences of the 2010 destructive torrential rains and floods through infrastructure rehabilitation, humanitarian aid and reconstruction in the affected areas. U.A.E. PAP developed a plan to achieve its goals and overcome rugged geography and harsh weather conditions in the targeted areas. The plan has four main pivots for infrastructure and community development: roads and bridges, education, health and safe water supply. It also provides for additional efforts to provide humanitarian assistance for the unprivileged, poor and homeless. The U.A.E. PAP showcases the success of U.A.E.'s humanitarian and development efforts to assist the people of Pakistan. With water pollution and shortages, in remote areas in particular, causing serious public health problems for the population, U.A.E. PAP cites malaria and hepatitis as two major public health concerns that it addresses through safe water projects in the Pakistani targeted provinces. U.A.E. was among the founders of the Friends of Democratic Pakistan (FoDP) which was launched in 2008 to extend support to Pakistan's social and economic development. Other founding member states include Britain, France, Germany, the United States, China, the United Arab Emirates, Canada, Turkey, Australia and Italy plus the United Nations and the European Union. On 16 August 2010, the UN estimated that up to 3.5 million children are at high risk from deadly water-borne diseases in Pakistan as a result of the country's devastating floods.

Maurizio Giuliano, a spokesman for the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA, said, "up to 3.5 million Pakistani children are at high risk of deadly waterborne diseases, such as watery diarrhoea and dysentery. Water during the flood has been contaminated badly. There is a shortage of clean water." "What concerns us the most is water and health. Clean water is essential to prevent deadly water-borne diseases. Water during the flood has been contaminated badly." The World Health Organisation (WHO) was also preparing to assist tens of thousands of people in case of cholera, although the government has not notified the UN of any confirmed cases, he added estimating the number at risk from such diseases was six million.

In a report released in February 2007, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) said 20-40 percent of "people in hospitals in Pakistan are suffering from water-borne diseases - gastroenteritis, typhoid, cholera, dysentery and other serious diseases". The report said every third Pakistani "drinks unsafe water". The World Bank, based on estimates developed by the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, UN DESA Population Division), says under-five mortality rate is the probability per 1,000 that a new-born baby will die before reaching age five, if subject to current age-specific mortality rates. According to a report released by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 2012, pneumonia and diarrhoea are leading killers of the world's youngest children, accounting for 29 per cent of deaths among children under age 5 worldwide or more than 2 million lives lost each year.

CLIMATIC PROFILE: MULTAN DISTRICT

Multan District lies between north latitude 30.198381° and east longitude 71.468703°. Geographically it is located in a bend created by five confluent rivers. The Sutlej separates it from Bahawalpur District and the Chenab (passes on its Western side) from Muzaffar Garh district. Whilst, It is surrounded by the Khanewal to the North and North East, the Vehari to the East and Lodhran to the South. The total area of the district is 3,721 square kilometers.

District Multan comprises following four tehsils;

- I. Multan Cantonment/ City
- II. Multan Sadar
- III. Shujabad
- IV. Jalalpur Pirwala

Major towns are Makhdoom Rashid, Qadirpur Ran and Basti Maluk.

District Multan at a Glance

Area	3,721 sq.km
Population – 2013 Estimated	4,348,191
Male	344,614 (51%)
Female	328,164 (49%)
No. of Household	4,186
Average Household Size	6.3
Literacy Ratio (10 +)	43.4%
Male	53.25%
Female	32.28%
Population 1998	3,117,000
Nutrition	
Percent Distribution of Households by consumption of iodized salt	24.9%
Percentage of Children who received Vitamin A during the last 6 months	55.4%
Water and Sanitation	
Users of improved drinking water sources: (Water on premises)	94.9%
Users of unimproved drinking water sources (Water on premises)	0.3%
Users of improved Sanitation facility (Public facility)	0.0%
Users of improved Sanitation facility (Not Shared)	37.4%
Users of Un-improved Sanitation facility (Public facility)	0.1%
Users of Un-improved Sanitation facility (Not Shared)	24.5%
Improved drinking water sources and Improved sanitation	48.1%
Administrative Units	
Towns/ TMAs	6
Union Councils	129

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Climate/Weather

District Multan lies in Warm Composite zone3, where the climate is dry hot in summer and cold in winter. It is notorious for hot weather and dust storms. The hottest months are May, June, July and August. The heat and dust of Multan are proverbial. Day temperature in the summer months between May and September is high but the nights are comparatively cool. The highest day temperature is recorded in the months of May, and June. The winter is pleasant. The coldest months are the later half of December and January. The maximum and minimum mean temperatures in summer are 42 and 29 degree centigrade whereas in winter it is 21.0 and 4.5 degree centigrade respectively. Wind storms have been one of the chief characteristics of Multan in olden days. In recent time, the frequency of the windstorms has considerably decreased because of the extensive agricultural development in and around the district. The normal annual rainfall is about 186 millimeters most of which falls during monsoons from July to September. Winter rain is rare.

Physiography and Geology

The District is roughly linear in shape along north-south axis. Various canals from River Sutlej & River Chenab pass through Multan & its adjoining districts making this area heaven of fertile land for agriculture.

Ecological Resources

Agriculture is unquestionably important major factor in Multan's economy. While main crops remain mangoes, citrus, sugarcane, cotton, and wheat others includes rice, maize, tobacco, vetch, lentils and oil seeds. A large number of fruit farms also grow fruit crops, which include dates, pears, bananas and guavas. Potatoes, Onion and Cauliflower are the main vegetables grown in the district.

Flora and Fauna:

The principle trees of the District are the Jand (*Prosopis spicigera*), Karril (*Capparis aphylla*), Farash (*Taxarix articulata*), kikar (*Acacia arbica*), Shisham (*Dalbergia sissoo*), Beri (*Zizyphus jujaba*), Malberry or toot (*Morus maraceae*), Bohar (*Fucus indica*), Sirin (*Albizia*

lebbek), Amb (*Mangifera indica*), Nim (*Melia indica*), Piple (*Ficus religiosa*), Dates or Khajji (*Phoenix doctylifera*), and Bhan (*Populus euphratica*). The first four are found all over the bar and flourish in the dry arid tracts; the others require a moist soil and are found on moist or irrigated soil. Of these Kikar is the most useful to the agriculturist, and its wood is used for beam and roofs of houses and for carts, water-lifts etc. The only deer to be found is Chinkara and the 'hog deer'. Wild boar is also found particularly in riverine areas. Sandgrouse visit the district during winter. Quail, plover, and pigeons are fairly common.

Soil:

The soil of the District is of alluvial character of very recent origin formed by rivers and their changing courses and sand can be found a few feet below the surface. It is more due to the fact that Ravi flowed along eastern boundary of the Walled City in the reign of Aurangzeb. It is devoid of any economic minerals, however salt fitra is manufactured on a small scale and a limited amount of Kankar is found in the old bed of Ravi.

Rivers, Canals and Nullahs:

The whole of Multan plain is made of alluvial soil sloping gently from North- East to South-West with a slight slope also from North-West to South-East. The formation is of very recent origin formed by the ever changing course of Chenab and Ravi. It is clear from the fact that one will find sand below a few feet of clay. Ravi had in the past changed different courses. In the time of Aurangzeb, Ravi flowed along the Eastern fringe of the walled city or along the Fort between the shrines of Hazrat Baha-ud-Din Zakariya Multani and Shah Shams Sabzwari and in fact a revenue mohalla is still named as Taraf Ravi where Ravi flowed previously. Eastern part is irrigated by the Multan Branch of Siddhnai Canal fed by Ravi. Nullah Wall Muhammad dug in 1750 A.D. under the orders of Nawab Ali Muhammad Khan, the then ruler of Multan, irrigates the North-Western area. The portion of the nullah within the habited area has now been converted to urban functions like roads, offices and residences. Second important Canal is Sikandari Canal, an offshoot of Shujabad Canal dug by Nijabat Khan, a landlord in 1777 A.D.

Disaster History

According to the Provincial District Management Authority (PDMA) of Punjab report; "Disaster risk management plan Punjab -2008" Multan is one of the most disaster-prone district in the province as per consolidated depiction of score 13, given while in comparison to other districts. Accordingly, Higher score means the district is more disaster prone whereas the lower score indicates that the district is relatively less prone to disasters. It is represented in the below table 1.

Table 1. Multan district; **Consolidated depiction of Disaster prone based score**

% of Poor	Food Insecurity	Flood	Drought	Earthquake	Score
4	4	1	1	0	13

While during the worst flood in Pakistan-2010, report of UN-OCHA (18 Feb.2011) shows the results of worst affected Multan district Tehsil-wise as follows in table 2.;

Table 2. Multan district; **Damages of the 2010-flood in the affected Tehsil**

Tehsil	Affected Population	Affected Area (Sq.km)	# of Damaged Schools
Jalalpur Pirwala	103,103	212	22
Multan Saddar	43,834	183	8
Multan City	27,447	40	4
Shujabad	53,431	160	13

Seismicity

Seismically, Multan lies in minor damage zone; distant earthquake can cause damage to structure with fundamental periods greater than 1.0 second, which corresponds to intensity V and VI of the M.M. scale.

Hazards

According to the Provincial District Management Authority (PDMA) of Punjab report; "Disaster risk management plan Punjab -2008"

(Analysis by: Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Lahore Branch); Multan district is also included in main hazard prone-districts of the province. These hazards probably includes; Urban terrorism, Secterian violence, Floods, and Petro-chemical areas.

References:

1. Report : Multan Master Plan (2008-2028)
2. Punjab Development Statistics 2013: Bureau of Statistics Govt. of the Punjab (Lahore)
3. Multiple Indicators Survey (2011) Govt. of Punjab

District Multan at a Glance

Resources by Housing Units



Housing Units having Piped Water
93,825



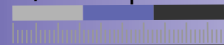
Housing Units having Electricity
301,527



Housing Units using Gas for Cooking
125,548

Area

3,721 Sq. Km



Population

Estimated Population 2013
4,348,191



Total Housing Units 1998

215,429



Pacca Housing Units
215,429

Literacy Rate (10 +)



Male **53.25%**



Female **32.28%**



Average Annual Growth rate (1981 -98)

2.73%



Population Density

837.9 per Sq. Km



Male **344,614 (51%)**

Female **328,164 (49%)**



Administrative Units

Tehsil **4** Towns/ TMAs **6**
Union Councils **129**

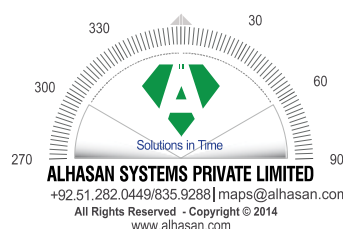
Rural Population

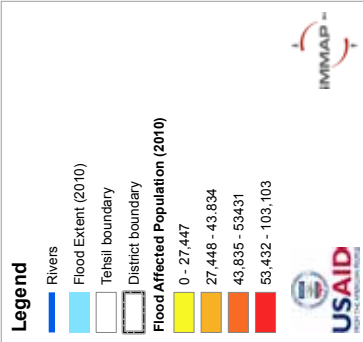
1,314,748 (42.18 %)



Urban Population

1,802,103 (57.82 %)





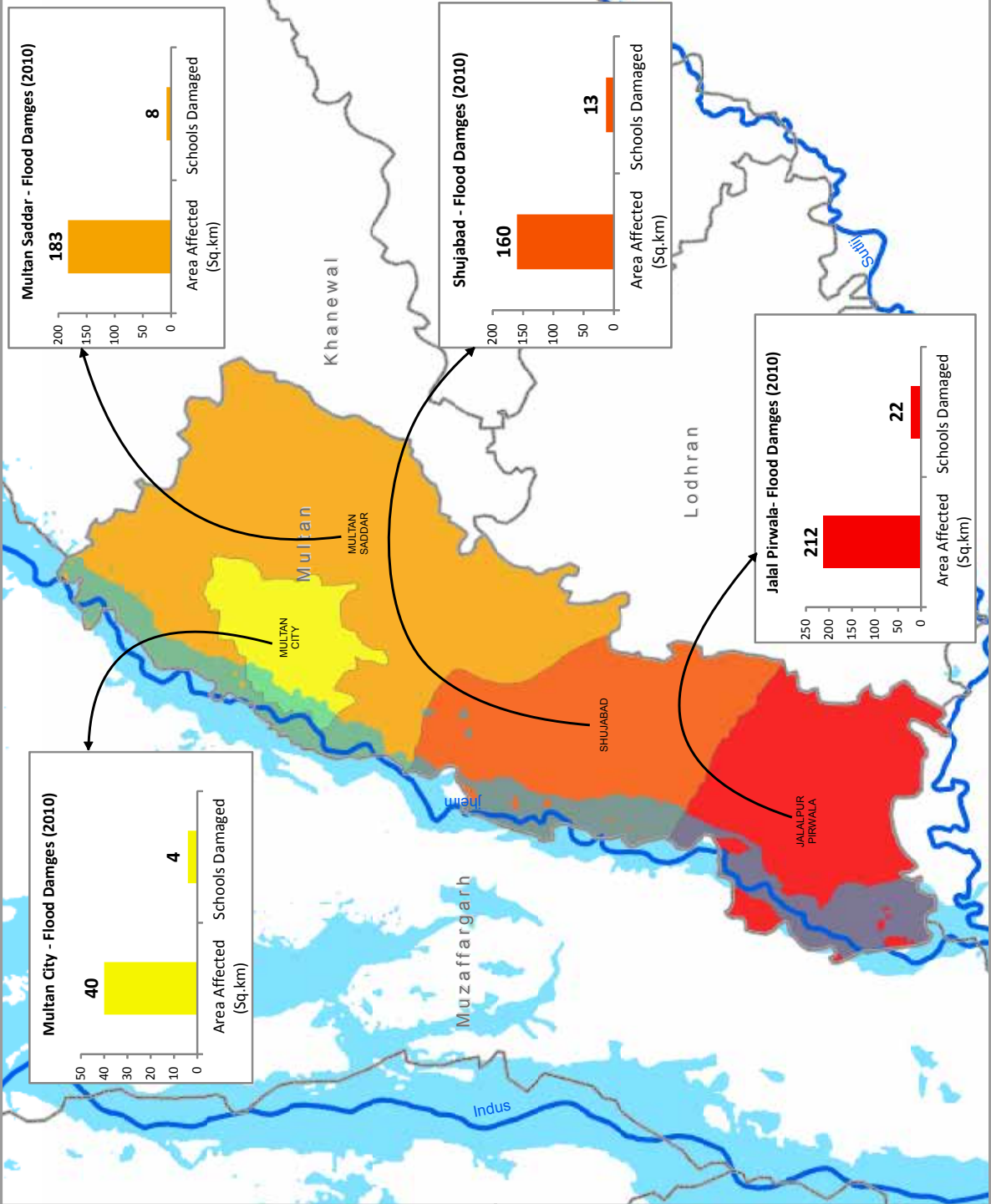
Map Doc Name: Multan-Flood2010 Damages Map_A3L
Creation Date: June 06, 2014
Projection/Datum: WGS84
Web Resources: <http://www.immap.org>

Data Source:
 Population Census Organization (PCO): Admin
 Boundaries
 River: World Food Programme (WFP)
 Flood Extent 2010: UNOSAT
 District Profile Multan-2010 (UN-OCHA): Flood 2010
 Damages data
Disclaimers:
 The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the IMMAP or USAID concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Jammu and Kashmir boundaries demarcates the administrative control of Pakistan and India. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.



Multan - Flood 2010 Damages Map

July, 2014

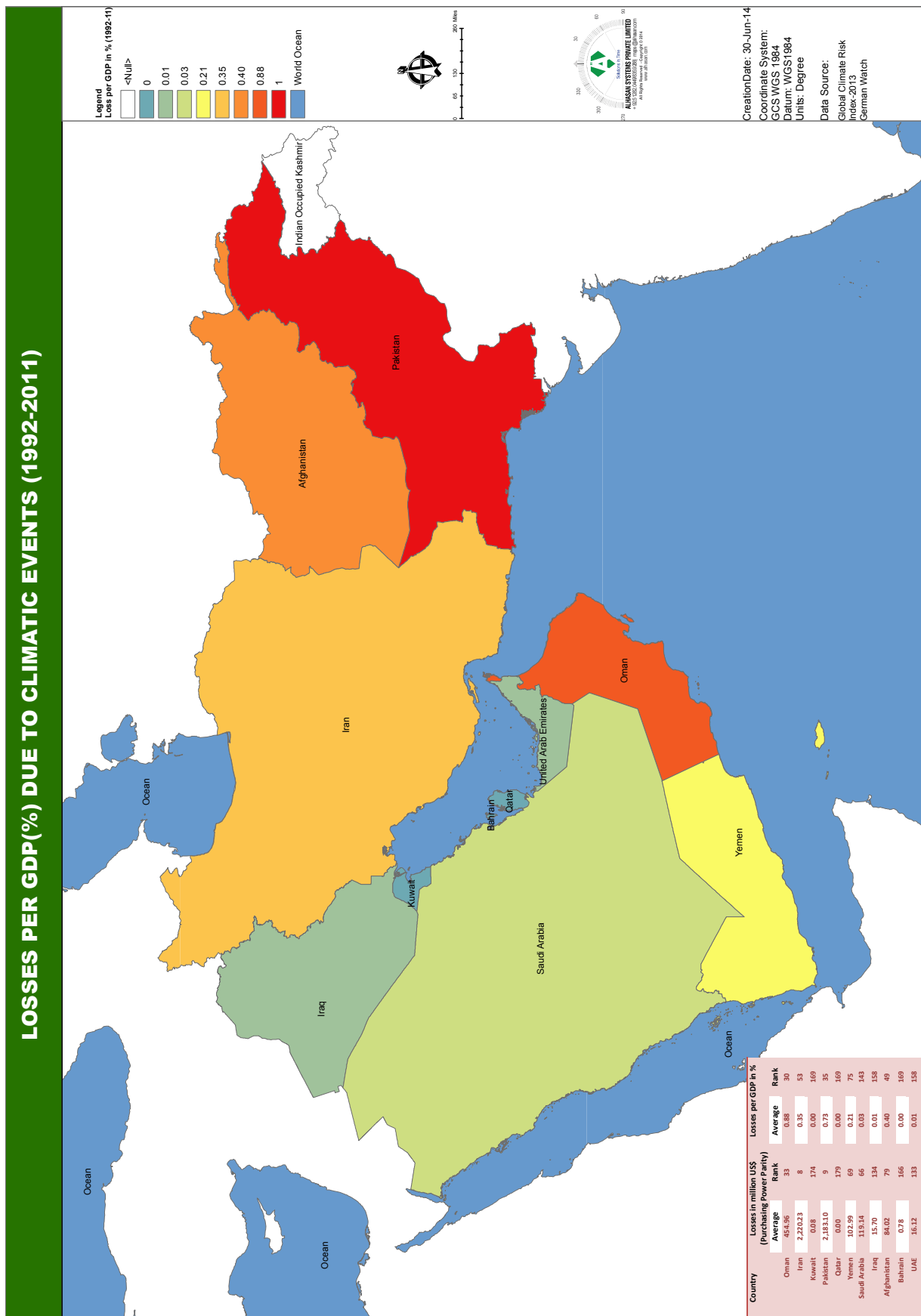


CHANGING CROPS WITH CHANGING CLIMATE: CAN PAKISTAN LEARN FROM NEPAL?

Zofeen T. Ebrahim
Dawn; June 05, 2014

Draupadi Basnet is a smallholder farmer in her 40s from the village of Agyuali in Nepal's terai (plains) land. She used to grow rice and only rice on the 1.5 hectares of land belonging to her in-laws. Like 75 per cent of the working population engaged in rice farming, that's all she knew, until 2012. With no irrigation canal near her village, she says, she would just sit back after the sowing and wait for the rains. In a good year she earned as much as 15,000 Nepali rupees (PKR 15,834). That year, Draupadi turned her paddy into a banana plantation. "Climate induced her to change," says Atiq Rahman, executive director of Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies. Hers, he says, is a perfect example of how communities are making adaptations to climate. In the last several years, Basnet had begun to notice a shift in the monsoon season. The rains she would wait for endlessly would never come at the right time and she began to feel the impact of climate change. "The rains became more and more erratic and the growing season kept shortening." On the sidelines of the 8th Annual Community-based Adaptation (CBA) Conference in Khatmandu, Rahman told Dawn.com: "Extreme events will occur more frequently and more intensely by climate change though they may not necessarily be caused by it. But unfortunately, it is the poor who will bear the brunt of it." Also participating in the conference organised by the International Institute for Environment and Development was Sam Bickersteth, chief executive of Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN). Bickersteth emphasised the power of CBA and how it "harnesses local capacity and resources, builds on indigenous knowledge and recognises the potential of autonomous adaptation." Rice is, by far, the most important staple crop of Nepal and is grown in 1.53 million hectares and the productivity is 2.56 t/ha on about 50 per cent of the total agricultural area. It contributes to nearly 20 per cent to the agricultural gross domestic product, accounting for 50 per cent of the total calorie requirement of the Nepalese people. However, with Nepal in the throes of climate aberrations, and the farmers clinging on to ancient farming practices, it is becoming increasingly difficult to be productive. Basnet's case is not too different from those of smallholder farmers in Pakistan, who also talk of fluctuating temperatures and unpredictable precipitation. Perhaps, then, some lessons can be learnt from Nepal. Pakistani economist and water expert Dr Pervaiz Amir says that while the best quality rice that is grown in Pakistan is dependent on rains and supplemented by irrigation, it would be prudent to use "water which is scarce for high value fruits and vegetables for export". Both geographically and topographically, the tarai in Nepal can be likened to some areas below the motorway, like Lillah, parts of Mianwali, and the delta region in Sindh. Although not too enthusiastic about the idea of growing bananas (which can be grown in the delta area), Dr Amir says: "We can look at alternatives like citrus, vegetables and fish". And where there is no irrigation, he suggests taking up dry-land farming growing pomegranate, almonds, investing in honey production and rearing livestock and ostrich, (which has a very high value

for export). He also places a lot of emphasis on growing trees for fuelwood and fodder. "More trees will bring more rain!" Additionally, Dr Amir says, "Maize should come in fast as it has numerous by-products. You see, it is the market that determines what will be produced in an economical way. Complex crops require a lot of institutional support with the latter creating or generating high value from exports." Meanwhile, Rahman says: "What needs to be done is use indigenous knowledge, add scientific knowledge to it and then transfer it back to the communities." If that does not happen, "the knowledge gap will consequently threaten productivity." Also participating in the conference organised by the International Institute for Environment and Development was Sam Bickersteth, chief executive of Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN). Bickersteth emphasised the power of CBA and how it "harnesses local capacity and resources, builds on indigenous knowledge and recognises the potential of autonomous adaptation." Rice is, by far, the most important staple crop of Nepal and is grown in 1.53 million hectares and the productivity is 2.56 t/ha on about 50 per cent of the total agricultural area. It contributes to nearly 20 per cent to the agricultural gross domestic product, accounting for 50 per cent of the total calorie requirement of the Nepalese people. However, with Nepal in the throes of climate aberrations, and the farmers clinging on to ancient farming practices, it is becoming increasingly difficult to be productive. Basnet's case is not too different from those of smallholder farmers in Pakistan, who also talk of fluctuating temperatures and unpredictable precipitation. Perhaps, then, some lessons can be learnt from Nepal. Pakistani economist and water expert Dr Pervaiz Amir says that while the best quality rice that is grown in Pakistan is dependent on rains and supplemented by irrigation, it would be prudent to use "water which is scarce for high value fruits and vegetables for export". Both geographically and topographically, the tarai in Nepal can be likened to some areas below the motorway, like Lillah, parts of Mianwali, and the delta region in Sindh. Although not too enthusiastic about the idea of growing bananas (which can be grown in the delta area), Dr Amir says: "We can look at alternatives like citrus, vegetables and fish". And where there is no irrigation, he suggests taking up dry-land farming growing pomegranate, almonds, investing in honey production and rearing livestock and ostrich, (which has a very high value



EARTHLY MATTERS: THERE'S NOTHING CLEAN ABOUT COAL

Rina Saeed Khan

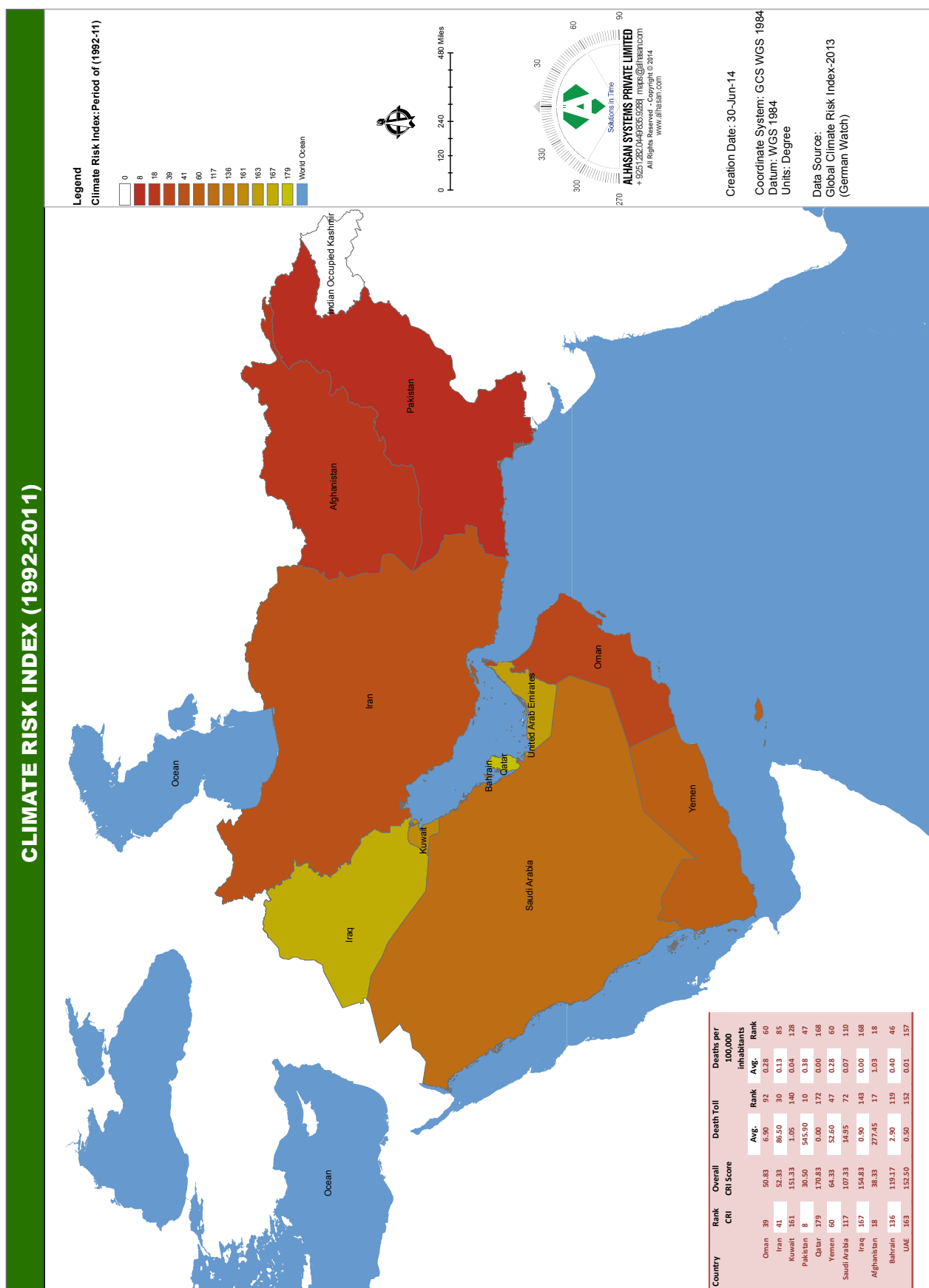
Dawn (Sunday Magazine): June 01, 2014

It seems our Prime Minister is fixated on building coal-fired power plants. Since coming to power soon after the May elections last year, Nawaz Sharif has initiated a number of coal-fired power plants in the country in order to alleviate the energy crisis, notwithstanding the fact that coal is the dirtiest of all fossil fuels. In smog choked China, where coal power once ruled, a "war against pollution" has been declared by Premier Li Keqiang to highlight the message that China must not only shut down coal-fired furnaces, but also shift to a more sustainable kind of development. Premier Li described China's massive air pollution problem as "nature's red-light warning against the model of inefficient and blind development" in his address to the opening session of the National People's Congress in March this year. Since we tend to follow China's lead, given our long friendship with them, why not heed their warnings about coal? Currently, our Prime Minister is not listening. Along with ex-President Asif Zardari, he jointly inaugurated the construction of a \$1.6 billion coal plant in Thar. A 600-megawatt coal plant was also given the go-ahead in Jamshoro, while last week the PM gave approval for two additional coal-fired power plants to be set up in the Gadani Power Park. In the mean time, his brother Shahbaz Sharif is planning to add 7,800 MW of coal fired energy by setting up six coal power plants in the Punjab. Pakistan Railways is already acquiring the high traction locomotives and wagons to transport an estimated 36 million tons of coal per annum by the year 2018 when they say the coal-fired power plants would become operational. The country's energy crisis has to be solved, but using the world's dirtiest fossil fuel is not the answer. With the PM's blessings and faced with a growing bill for imported oil that stands at \$14bn (and a rapidly dwindling supply of natural gas), the country's private and public oil plants are switching over to coal. There is an ambitious plan to upgrade the country's ports to handle the coal supply. Khwaja Asif, the Minister for Power and Water, freely admits that "This is a major and historic fuel-switching plan, as we generate zero (per cent) from coal compared to India, which generates 69 per cent of its electricity from coal-fired power plants." He seems to ignore the fact that India started developing its coal industry back in the 1970s when the central government nationalised all the coal mines and long before climate change came on the global agenda.

According to Greenpeace, a third of all carbon dioxide emissions come from burning coal, making coal fired power plants the biggest source of man made CO₂ emissions. "This makes coal energy the single greatest threat facing our climate." Supporters of coal energy say that the amount Pakistan is producing would be insignificant on the global scale, but they probably are not aware that attempts will be made to curb global carbon emissions at the UN Conference on Climate Change to be held in Paris next year. The UN's scientific voice on climate change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its latest assessment report (known as AR5) released this year, has put considerable emphasis on the need for more renewable energy including solar, wind and hydropower. The report says emissions of greenhouse gases can be cut in the medium term by

replacing coal with less-polluting gas (from shale gas reserves), although the gas will itself ultimately have to be phased out.

According to national climate expert Dr Qamar-uz-Zaman Chaudhry who has drawn out some of the implications of the AR5 report for Pakistan, "In spite of our very low greenhouse gas emissions contribution, our role as a responsible member of the global community in combating climate change needs to be fully taken into consideration while responding to climate change mitigation issues." He pointed out that the "energy sector in Pakistan is contributing around 51pc of our total emissions followed by the agriculture sector's 39pc. Pakistan cannot afford to ignore mitigation efforts — at least, in these sectors." Dr Chaudhry warns that "The (IPCC) report has rightly highlighted the importance of moving away from coal-based power generation ... surely the indications are that the time may not be far when the countries not following green energy path would be penalised, as with a carbon tax on exports, etc." He advises the government of Pakistan to "be cautious when considering any lock-in in coal power generation technology for next 25-30 years" and to go for a "mix of power sources with increased reliance on hydro/renewable and less on fossil fuel particularly on coal." International experts say that the clean energy world that the IPCC seeks need be no more than 15 years away. According to Mark Z. Jacobson, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Stanford University, California, and director of its atmosphere and energy programme, "Wind, Water and Solar power (WWS) can be scaled up cost-effectively to meet the world's energy demands, ending dependence on both fossil fuels and nuclear power." He further adds, "Barriers to the plan are primarily social and political, not technological or economic. The energy cost in a WWS world should be similar to that of today." Critics might point out that installing wind, hydro-power and solar energy is expensive right now, but coal is not exactly cheap either. Both the price of coal and the cost of building coal plants have risen over the past few years, more than 50pc in some instances. And consider the other costs: from health care cost to environmental destruction. Future carbon dioxide regulations, which the world will enact soon, will also dramatically increase the cost of coal. With the cost of renewables now equal to or less than the cost of coal in many countries, building new coal-fired power plants is a poor investment for our future.



FINALLY OBAMA GETS SERIOUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Saleemul Huq

Statesman: June 06, 2014

President Obama's declaration on limiting emissions of Carbon Dioxide by a third from coal fired power plants in the US is a major step in the right direction and marks the tipping point in US engagement in tackling the global problem of climate change. It is not that the amount of emission reductions thus achieved are particularly large compared to the scale of the problem, but rather that President Obama has finally decided to put his political capital behind this issue, which is arguably the most important and far reaching one that his generation of leaders will have to face.

The point that he seems to have finally understood is that as the current leader of the richest and most powerful country in the world and (now) its second biggest emitter of greenhouse gases (GHG), he bears a singular responsibility to leave the world a better place for his children and future grandchildren. Tackling climate change is not a matter of protecting the interests of the US (or any other country) against other countries (which is what normally happens in global diplomacy) but rather a challenge to this generation of global leaders who will be answerable to their children and grandchildren rather than to their current (adult) electorates.

Most of the people, and some leaders, in the rest of the world had realised this already and are beginning to take significant actions but the US has been a major laggard, because of its peculiar anti-science politics. For example, the House of Representatives recently held a hearing on the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and declared it to be non-scientific. Even the words "climate change" seems to be confusing for the US public who prefer the words "global warming." In any case, whatever the words they choose to describe the problem, it seems that President Obama, his advisers in the White House and Federal Government, have decided that it is indeed their duty to take on the denialist factions in Congress and media on this vitally important issue.

One of the important aspects of how the issue is explained, and whose narrative counts, is the issue of cost. The climate change deniers (or those who oppose actions even if they don't deny climate change) focus on the "costs of action" and they exaggerate those costs to frighten leaders into inaction. However, what is becoming clearer with time, is that the "cost of inaction" is many times higher than the costs of action. However, the crucial difference in the two costs is that the costs of action will hurt the vested interests and fossil fuel industries, whereas the costs of inaction is already being borne by the poorest and most vulnerable countries and communities and that even the rich countries are now having to face the costs of climate related phenomena like hurricane Sandy in the north east and the drought in California in the US. These costs are borne by the people in general (and poorer people in particular) who are not able to pay for expensive lobbyists to influence their leaders to take appropriate actions.

However, the real costs of inaction are now becoming clear to even the most willfully blind politicians around the world and therefore the need to take much greater action to prevent catastrophic climate change impacts as projected with a 4 degree Celsius rise in temperatures over coming decades, which where we are headed, to

bring those temperatures down to well below 2 degrees (which is the stated aim of all countries).

The upcoming Climate Change Summit called by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki Moon on September 23 in New York will be the appropriate occasion for President Obama of the US, President Xi of China and the newly elected Prime Minister Modi of India, as well as other presidents and prime ministers to come and make significant pledges for actions which are commensurate with the scale of the problem. This is their opportunity to look their children and grandchildren in the face and say that that when they were called on they did the right thing for both future generations as well as for the entire planet and not just for their own countries. It is time for world leaders to show global leadership rather than just national leadership.

تفصیلات

سرخیاں

تھر غذائی قلت کے سبب میں دنوں میں

14 بچے جاں بحق

ساتھ ایشین نیوز ایجنسی (شہ)

22 جون 2014

قدرتی آفات سے نمٹنے کی تیاری

بی بی سی اردو

20 جون 2014

تھر پارکر (شہ) تھر کے صحرائیں غذائی قلت کے سبب گزشتہ بیس دنوں کے دوران مختلف امراض میں مبتلا 14 بچے جاں بحق ہو گئے۔ سول اسپتال منجی کے سول سرجن ڈاکٹر نالے چنگو کے مطابق اسپتال میں غذائی قلت کے باعث مختلف امراض میں مبتلا درجنوں بچے اور بڑے زیر علاج ہیں۔ جن میں سے 14 بچے گزشتہ بیس دنوں کے دوران جاں بحق ہو گئے۔ دوسری جانب اسپتال میں سہولیات کی عدم فراہمی، غیر اعلانیٰ لوڈ شیڈنگ اور بجلی کا متبادل انتظام نہ ہونے سے مریضوں کو شدید پریشانی کا سامنا ہے۔ ساتھ ہی گرمی نے مریض بچوں اور تیار داروں کو بے حال کر رکھا ہے۔

خشک سالی کے خطرے کے پیش نظر تھر، چولستان اور جنوبی بلوچستان کے علاقوں کو خصوصی توجہ دی جا رہی ہے۔ این ڈی ایم اے کے ممبر آپریشنز ریگیزیز کامران ضیا کا کہنا ہے کہ رواں برس ایل نینسو اثرات کے پیش نظر صوبائی اور قومی سطح پر الگ الگ منصوبے تشکیل دیے جا چکے ہیں۔ ان کا کہنا تھا: 'صوبوں، کشمیر، گلگت بلتستان اور اسلام آباد کے بالائی علاقوں کے لیے منصوبے تیار کیے گئے ہیں۔ 30 جون اور یکم جولائی کو دروزہ کفرنس میں حتمی منصوبے پیش کیے جائیں گے۔ ان کی روشنی میں مون سون کے لیے منصوبہ حکومت سے منظور کروایا جائے گا۔ ریگیزیز کامران ضیا کا کہنا تھا کہ 'محکمہ موسمیات پیش گوئی موصول ہو چکی ہے جس کی بنا پر منصوبے تیار کیے گئے ہیں۔ اب کی بار جنوبی علاقوں میں معمول سے 30 فیصد کم بارش کا امکان ہے۔ اس لیے خشک سالی کے لیے بھی تیاری کی جا رہی ہے۔ ان کے بقول کسی بھی صورتحال سے نمٹنے کی بھرپور تیاری کی جا رہی ہے۔ ہم چار چیزوں پر زیادہ توجہ دے رہے ہیں۔ جن میں صحت، پانی، خوراک کی فراہمی اور موبیٹیوں کے لیے اقدامات شامل ہیں۔ تمام اقدامات پر عمل درآمد پہلے سے جاری ہے۔ ہم ایل نینسو کے آنے کا انتظار نہیں کر رہے کہ خشک سالی کی صورتحال پیدا ہو اور ہم اس پر رد عمل دیں۔ ریگیزیز کامران ضیا نے بتایا کہ مئی کے مہینے کے نسبتاً ٹھنڈا ہونے باعث گلشیروں کے پگھلنے میں تاخیر ہوئی ہے اس لیے مون سون اور برفانی تودوں کے پگھلنے کے اوقات کے یکساں ہونے کے باعث سیلاب کے خطرے کو خارج از امکان قرار نہیں دیا جاسکتا۔ ریگیزیز کامران ضیا کے بقول تمام صوبوں میں ضلعی سطح پر منصوبے بنائے گئے ہیں کہ کس طرح اور کس سطح کے سیلاب میں کن کن علاقوں میں اقدامات کرنے ہیں۔ 'لوگوں کو علاقوں سے منتقل کرنے کے لیے بھی منصوبہ بندی کی گئی ہے، حتیٰ کہ سیلاب کی صورت میں امدادی خیمہ بستوں کے لیے مقام کا تعین کیا گیا ہے۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ سیلاب سے پہلے تنبیہ جاری کی جائے گی اور ان لوگوں کو علاقے سے منتقل کر دیا جائے گا۔ ریگیزیز کامران ضیا کے بقول ان کے لیے شہری علاقوں میں آنے والے کسی ممکنہ سیلاب کی صورت میں شہری حکومتوں کے ساتھ تعاون کیا جا رہا ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ انھیں بتایا گیا ہے کہ شہری حکومتوں نے نکاسی کے نظام میں بہتری کے لیے اقدامات کیے ہیں۔ ریگیزیز کامران ضیا کا کہنا تھا کہ خشک سالی کے خطرے کے پیش نظر تھر، چولستان اور جنوبی بلوچستان کے علاقوں کو خصوصی توجہ دی جا رہی ہے: 'ہم چار چیزوں پر زیادہ توجہ دے رہے ہیں۔ صحت، پانی، خوراک کی فراہمی اور موبیٹیوں کے لیے اقدامات شامل ہیں۔ ریگیزیز کامران ضیا کا کہنا تھا کہ 'ہم پانی کی سطح پر نظر رکھے ہوئے ہیں۔ تمام اقدامات پر عمل درآمد پہلے سے جاری ہے۔ ہم ایل نینسو کے آنے کا انتظار نہیں کر رہے کہ خشک سالی کی صورتحال پیدا ہو اور اس کے بعد ہم اس پر رد عمل دیں۔

ایڈھی مرکز کے انچارج نے کہا کہ عرس کے آغاز سے ایک روز قبل 14 افراد جان بحق ہوئے تھے۔ پاکستان کے صوبہ سندھ کے شہر سیہون میں قلندر لعل شہباز کے عرس کے پہلے دو دنوں میں بدھ کی شام تک شدید گرمی کی وجہ سے 43 افراد ہلاک ہوئے ہیں۔ صوبہ سندھ کے ضلع جامشورو اور دادو ان اضلاع میں شامل ہیں جہاں درجہ حرارت آج کل 48 ڈگری سینٹی گریڈ تک ہوتا ہے۔ صبح دس بجے سے گرمی بڑھتی جاتی ہے جو مغرب تک برقرار رہتی ہے۔ ایڈھی مرکز حیدر آباد کے انچارج محمد معراج عرس کے موقع پر سیہون میں ایڈھی کیپ کی نگرانی کرتے ہیں۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ عرس کے آغاز سے ایک روز قبل 14 افراد جان بحق ہوئے تھے۔ ان میں چار ایسے جوان افراد بھی شامل تھے جو نہر میں نہاتے ہوئے ڈوب کر ہلاک ہو گئے تھے۔ اس کے بعد 17 اور 18 جون کو شدید گرمی اور لوہے کے نتیجے میں لوگ ہلاک ہوئے جس کی وجہ سے مرنے والوں کی کل تعداد بدھ کی سہ پہر تک 47 ہو گئی۔ ڈپٹی کمشنر اور عرس کمیٹی کے سربراہ ادیب سمیل بھانی نے تصدیق کی کہ گرمی کی شدت کی وجہ سے اموات ہوئی ہیں۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ نہاتے ہوئے ڈوبنے سے صرف ایک شخص ہلاک ہوا۔ محمد معراج نے کہا کہ ہلاک ہونے والوں میں کراچی اور ٹنڈو آدم کے چار افراد کے علاوہ اکثریت کا تعلق پنجاب سے ہے، ایسے تمام افراد جن کی شناخت ہو گئی، ان کی میتیں ان کے آبائی علاقوں کو روانہ کر دی گئیں۔ سیہون میں موجود ہسپتال میں بھی سہولتیں محدود ہیں۔ معراج کا کہنا ہے کہ ہسپتال میں مردہ خانے یا سرد خانہ کی کوئی سہولت نہ ہونے کی وجہ سے لاشیں خراب ہوئی ہیں۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ ہلاک ہونے والوں میں 14 افراد ایسے تھے جو لاوارث تھے۔ معراج نے شکایت کی کہ لاوارثوں کو دفنانے کے لیے ایڈھی رضا کاروں کو سخت مشکل کا سامنا رہتا ہے کیوں کہ مقامی قبرستان میں لوگ تقدیر کی اجازت نہیں دیتے۔ انھوں نے بتایا کہ ایڈھی مرکز نے ضلعی انتظامیہ سے قبرستان کے لیے زمین کا مطالبہ کیا تھا جس پر ابھی تک غور نہیں کیا گیا ہے۔ سیہون میں موجود ہسپتال میں بھی سہولتیں محدود ہیں۔ معراج کا کہنا ہے کہ ہسپتال میں مردہ خانے یا سرد خانہ کی کوئی سہولت نہ ہونے کی وجہ سے لاشیں خراب ہوئی ہیں اور علاقے میں تعفن تک پھیل گیا ہے۔ اس پر ڈپٹی کمشنر نے کہا کہ مردہ خانہ کی عدم موجودگی کے بارے میں وہ کچھ اس لیے نہیں کہہ سکتے کہ اس کا قیام تو کسی منصوبے کے تحت ہوتا ہے جس کا انھیں کوئی علم نہیں ہے۔ لعل شہباز قلندر کا تین روزہ عرس جمعرات کو اختتام پزیر ہو گا۔ عرس کا افتتاح محکمہ اوقاف کے صوبائی وزیر عبدالحسین نے منگل کے روز کیا تھا جبکہ اختتام تقریب میں وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ کی آمد متوقع ہے۔ عرس میں شرکت کرنے کے لیے ملک بھر کے دور دراز علاقوں سے ہزاروں زائرین سیہون پہنچے ہیں۔ سیہون کراچی سے ڈھائی سو کلومیٹر کے فاصلے پر انڈس ہائی وے پر واقع ہے۔ عرس کے دوران 'لعل میری رکیو پت بلاج' پر دھماکا ڈالا جاتا ہے۔ عرس کی تقریبات کا انتظامیہ کی طرف سے باقاعدہ افتتاح مزار پر

لعل شہباز کے عرس میں گرمی کی وجہ

سے 43 افراد ہلاک

بی بی سی اردو

19 جون 2014

چادر چڑھا کر کیا جاتا ہے جبکہ زائرین ایک مخصوص وقت پر دھما ڈال کر عرس کے آغاز کا نفاذ کرتے ہیں۔ 'لعل میری رکھپوت بلاج' پر دھما ڈالا جاتا ہے جس میں مرد اور خواتین حصہ لیتے ہیں اور بے حال ہو جاتے ہیں۔ عرس کا اختتام بھی دھما ڈال کر کیا جاتا ہے جس میں سینکڑوں افراد شریک ہوتے ہیں۔ لعل شہباز قلندر کی درگاہ کا انتظام صوبائی محکمہ اوقاف کی ذمہ داری ہے۔ محکمہ اور حکومت لوگوں کی رہائش کے علاوہ ہسپتال کی حالت کو بہتر نہیں بنا سکی ہے۔ درگاہ سے محکمہ اوقاف کو ہر ماہ ہزاروں روپے کی آمدنی ہوتی ہے جو زائرین نظر آنے کی صورت میں سر بہ مہر کیسے میں ڈالتے ہیں۔ سکھ رائج الوقت کے علاوہ نظر آنے میں زیورات بھی برآمد ہوتے ہیں جو خواتین کے گلے کے ہار، ہاتھوں کی چوڑیوں یا بالیوں کی صورت میں ہوتے ہیں۔

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) مسلم سندھ کے صدر حلیم عادل شیخ نے آریف کے رضا کاروں کے ہمراہ ٹھٹھہ اور سجاد کا دورہ کرینگے جہاں سمندری طوفان سے متاثرہ لوگوں میں امدادی سامان تقسیم کیا جائے گا۔ مسلم لیگ کے صوبائی سیکرٹریٹ میں مسلم لیگ اور پی آر ایف کے رضا کاروں سے ملاقات میں ان کا کہنا تھا کہ ٹھٹھہ اور سجاد میں سمندری طوفان سے متاثرہ 35 ہزار خاندان بے یار و مددگار حکومتی امداد کے منتظر ہیں۔ کیشی بندر، کھارو چھان، شاہ بندر، جاتی، نانور، گھوڑا باری اور دیگر سینکڑوں علاقوں میں نظام زندگی درہم برہم ہے جبکہ حکومت چیف منسٹر ہاؤس میں میٹنگوں میں مصروف ہے۔ متاثرہ لوگوں کے پاس کھانے پینے کے ساتھ سرچھپانے کے لیے شیلٹر بھی موجود نہیں ہے۔ جن مال مویشیوں کی وجہ سے ان کا گزر رات کو ہوتا تھا کئی فٹ پانی کی وجہ سے وہ دودھ دینے سے بھی قاصر کے اضلاع تصور کیے جاتے ہیں ہر کوئی یہ سمجھ رہا تھا کہ چند گھنٹوں میں ہی بہت سی VVIPs ہیں۔ امید تو یہ کی جارہی تھی کہ ٹھٹھہ اور سجاد کے یہ دونوں اضلاع امدادی سامان اور متاثرہ لوگوں کی مدد کے لیے سندھ حکومت پہنچ جائے گی مگر معاملہ اس کے برعکس نکلا ہے لوگ اس وقت شدید کرب میں مبتلا ہیں۔ حکومت نے ہمیشہ کی طرح سندھ کی عوام کو اس مشکل گھڑی میں اکیلا چھوڑ رکھا ہے۔ اس موقع پر پی آر ایف کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر جی آر بلوچ، شمس جو کھیو، ملک عاطف اور دیگر موجود تھے۔ پی آر ایف کی ٹیم نے حلیم عادل شیخ کو ٹھٹھہ اور سجاد کے دورے سے متعلق آگاہ کیا اور لوگوں کی مشکلات کا تذکرہ کیا۔

کراچی (این این آئی) بحیرہ عرب میں سمندری طوفان نانوک کی شدت بتدریج کم ہوتے ہوئے اب صرف ہوا کے کم دباؤ تک محدود ہو گئی تاہم ملک کے ساحلی علاقوں میں تباہ کاریاں جاری ہیں۔ طوفان کے اثرات اب بھی بلوچستان کے کچھ جبکہ سندھ کے بیشتر ساحلی علاقوں پر موجود ہیں جہاں سمندر میں اونچی اونچی لہریں اٹھتی رہیں اور پانی معمول کے برخلاف 3 سے 4 سو فٹ تک پھیل گیا۔ کراچی میں ابراہیم حیدری، ہا کس بے، سینڈ زپٹ، پیراڈائز پوائنٹ دیگر ساحلی علاقوں میں قائم ہٹ کئی فٹ پانی میں ڈوبے ہوئے ہیں۔ کسی بھی ناخوشگوار واقعے سے بچنے کے لئے کمشنر نے کراچی کے دفعہ 144 نافذ کرتے ہوئے سمندر میں نہانے پر پابندی عائد رکھی تاہم اس کے باوجود لوگوں کی بڑی تعداد ساحل سمندر پر موجود تھی۔ کراچی سے متصل بلوچستان کے ساحلی علاقے جب، ڈام، سونمیاں اور گڈانی میں سمندری پانی شہروں میں داخل ہو گیا۔ طغیانی کے باعث سندھ میں ٹھٹھہ، بدین، سجاد اور زیر پوائنٹ پر واقع 90 سے زائد دیہات کالک کے دیگر حصوں سے زمینی رابطہ ختم ہو گیا اور مای گیروں کی آبادیاں محفوظ مقام پر منتقل ہو گئیں۔ فشر فوک فورم کا کہنا ہے کہ سمندری طوفان کے اثرات اتوار کی رات تک برقرار رہیں گے اس لئے ساحل پر موجود مای گیروں کو اتوار کی رات تک کھلے سمندر میں جانے سے منع کیا گیا ہے۔ ادھر بلوچستان کے ساحلی علاقوں گوادر، جیوانی، پسینی، اوماڑہ، ڈام، سونمیاں اور گڈانی میں سمندری طوفان نانوک کے زیر اثر سمندری لہریں آبادیوں میں داخل ہو گئیں۔ گھروں میں پانی داخل ہونے سے لوگوں میں خوف و ہراس پھیل گیا۔ 10 سے 12 فٹ اونچی لہریں ساحل سے ٹکراتی رہیں۔ دریں اثناء وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ سید قاسم علی شاہ نے سمندری طوفان سے متاثرہ ٹھٹھہ سونمیاں کیشی بندر اور دیگر مقامات کا دورہ کیا اور متاثرین کی بحالی کے لئے جاری کارروائیوں کا جائزہ لیا۔ انہوں نے متاثرین کے لئے 2 کروڑ روپے امداد کا اعلان کیا اور کہا کہ نقصان کا اندازہ لگا کر ریلیف پیکیج کا اعلان کیا جائے گا۔

کراچی / کوئٹہ (خصوصی رپورٹر + نوائے وقت رپورٹر) بحیرہ عرب میں سمندری طوفان کے باعث ٹھٹھہ اور بدین کے کئی دیہات زیر آب آگئے جبکہ سمندر میں طغیانی کے باعث کراچی میں سینڈ زپٹ اور پیراڈائز پوائنٹ پر قائم کئی ہٹ بھی پانی میں بہہ گئے۔ کراچی کی مغربی ساحلی پٹی میں سمندر میں طغیانی آگئی جس کی وجہ سے تقریبی مقامات سینڈ زپٹ اور ہا کس بے پیراڈائز پوائنٹ پر سمندر کا پانی سڑکوں تک پہنچ گیا اور ساحل پر بسنے کئی ہٹ بھی پانی میں بہہ گئے اور منورہ تک جانے کا واحد زمینی راستہ بھی منقطع ہو گیا۔ سمندر میں مچھلیوں کے شکار کیلئے جانے والی تمام لانیچوں کو بھی واپس بلا لیا گیا۔ کمشنر کراچی نے ساحل سمندر پر دفعہ 144 نافذ کر دی ہے۔ سمندر پر تفریح کیلئے آنے والوں کو ہدایات جاری کی ہیں وہ ساحل سمندر پر نہ آئیں۔ نوائے وقت رپورٹ کے مطابق بلوچستان کے ساحلی علاقوں میں تیز ہوائیں چلنا شروع ہو گئیں۔ تیز ہوائوں کے سبب سمندر میں طغیانی آگئی ہے۔ سمندری پانی بلوچستان کے ساحلی علاقوں سے متصل شہری آبادی میں داخل ہو گیا۔ سمندر میں طغیانی سے لسبیلہ، ڈام، سونمیاں اور شہر برینگ یارڈ سمیت دیگر علاقے متاثر ہوئے۔ آئی این پی کے مطابق بحیرہ عرب میں اٹھنے والا طوفان نانوک آئندہ 48 گھنٹوں میں اومان کے ساحل سے ٹکرائے گا، محکمہ موسمیات کے مطابق 500 تا نیکیل میل دور سمندری طوفان سے کراچی کو کوئی خطرہ نہیں تاہم موسم ابر آلود اور ہلکی بارش کا امکان ہے۔ سمندر میں لہروں کے باعث مای گیروں کی کشتی لاپتہ ہو گئی، کشتی میں 19 افراد سوار تھے، فشر مین کو آپریٹو سوسائٹی نے ہنگامی صورتحال نافذ کر دی اور میری ٹائم سکیورٹی ایجنسی اور پاک بحریہ سے مدد طلب کر لی ہے۔ وقت نیوز کے مطابق ترجمان فشر فوک نے بتایا ہے کراچی میں کینپ کے قریب سومار گٹھ سمندری پانی میں ڈوب گیا۔ سمندری لہریں ساحلی علاقوں میں گھوٹوں کے گھروں میں داخل ہو گئیں۔ سٹاف رپورٹر / خصوصی رپورٹر کے مطابق گہرے سمندر میں موجود 200 سے زائد کشتیوں میں سوار ہزاروں مای گیروں نے جزائر اور ترقی کے جنگلات میں پناہ لی ہے۔ دوسری جانب پھر اسمندر کراچی کے مبارک ولیج سے لیکر جاتی تک 350 کلومیٹر طویل علاقے میں موجود کناروں پر آباد مای گیروں پر چڑھ دوڑا جس سے سینکڑوں دیہات زیر آب آ گئے۔

سمندری طوفان سے متاثر 35 ہزار خاندان حکومتی امداد کے منتظر ہیں، حلیم عادل شیخ

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

17 جون 2014

سمندری طوفان کی شدت میں کمی، 90 دیہات پانی میں ڈوبے رہے

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

15 جون 2014

سمندری طوفان سے ٹھٹھہ، بدین، بلوچستان کے کئی علاقے زیر آب، 19 مای گیروں کی کشتی لاپتہ، کراچی ساحل پر دفعہ 144 نافذ

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

13 جون 2014

اسلام آباد (شام نیوز) پاکستان کے میدانی علاقے گرمی کی لپیٹ میں ہیں جس سے لوگوں کے معمولات زندگی شدید متاثر ہوئے ہیں۔ کئی کئی گھنٹے کی لوڈ شیڈنگ نے عام شہریوں کی تکلیف میں اضافہ کیا ہے اور بڑی تعداد میں لوگ لوگنے سے ہسپتالوں تک پہنچے ہیں۔ محکمہ موسمیات کے مطابق گذشتہ 24 گھنٹے کے دوران پاکستان کا گرم ترین علاقہ تربت رہا جہاں درج حرارت 50 ڈگری سینٹی گریڈ تک پہنچ گیا جبکہ جنوبی پنجاب کا شہر جھکر 49 سینٹی گریڈ کے ساتھ دوسرے نمبر پر رہا۔ گوادر، جنیبل آباد، سبی، لاہور، ملتان، بہاولپور، ڈیرہ غازی خان سمیت سندھ پنجاب اور بلوچستان گرمی کی لپیٹ میں رہے۔ محکمہ موسمیات کا کہنا ہے کہ گرمی کی حالیہ لہر آئندہ پانچ روز تک برقرار رہے گی اور اس دوران بعض علاقوں میں درج حرارت میں اضافہ ہو سکتا ہے۔ پاکستان میں سال کے یہ دن طویل ترین شمار ہوتے ہیں اور ان دنوں میں گرمی کی شدت سے یوں محسوس ہوتا ہے کہ سورج سوائیز پر آچکا ہے۔ دوپہر کا زیادہ وقت لوگ گھروں، دفاتر یا دکانوں کے اندر گزارنے کو ترجیح دیتے ہیں لیکن بجلی کی طویل بندش لوگوں کو گھروں میں بھی چین نہیں لینے دیتی۔ محکمہ موسمیات کا کہنا ہے کہ گرمی کی حالیہ لہر آئندہ پانچ روز تک برقرار رہے گی اور اس دوران بعض علاقوں میں درج حرارت میں اضافہ ہو سکتا ہے۔ گرمی میں اضافے کے ساتھ ہی بجلی کی طلب میں اضافہ ہو گیا ہے جس نے بجلی کے شارٹ فال کو مزید بڑھا دیا ہے۔ شہری اور دیہی علاقوں میں 12 سے 16 گھنٹے تک کی علانیہ اور غیر علانیہ لوڈ شیڈنگ جاری ہے۔ گرمی کی شدت میں اضافے کے ساتھ ملک کے مختلف حصوں میں لوڈ شیڈنگ کے خلاف چھوٹے بڑے مظاہرے گذشتہ ایک ہفتے سے جاری ہیں۔ محکمہ موسمیات کا کہنا ہے کہ اگلے ہفتے گلگت بلتستان، خیبر پختونخوا اور کشمیر کے دریاں میں برف پگھلنے کی وجہ سے بہا میں اضافہ ہو گا اور تربل ڈیم میں پانی کی آمد میں خاطر خواہ اضافہ ہو سکتا ہے جس سے بجلی کی پیداوار بڑھائی جاسکتی ہے۔ پاکستان میں شدید گرمی میں شہریوں کو روزگار کے لیے گھروں سینکڑوں پڑتا ہے۔ کڑی دھوپ میں سینٹ کی بوریاں ڈھونے والے محنت کش محمد اکرم کی موٹر سائیکل پک اپ کو میں نے سڑک کنارے روکا اور پوچھا کہ اتنی گرمی میں وہ کیا کر رہے ہیں؟ انھوں نے کہا کہ اگر وہ کمائیں گے نہیں تو گھر میں فاقے ہوں گے۔ انھوں نے بتایا کہ وہ آٹھ ہزار روپے ماہوار کے ملازم ہیں اور اگر چھٹی کرتے ہیں تو تنخواہ کٹ جاتی ہے۔ محمد اکرم نے کہا گرمی سے بیمار پڑ انھوں نے چھٹی کی تھی لیکن سینٹ فروش مالک دکان نے انھیں زبردستی بلالیا۔

لاہور (این این آئی) ماہرین نے خبردار کیا ہے کہ موسمیاتی تبدیلیوں کے سبب متوقع طور پر سب سے زیادہ متاثر ہونے والے علاقوں میں ایشیاء بحر الکاہل بھی شامل ہے اور ان تبدیلیوں سے اگلی صدی تک کروڑوں افراد متاثر ہو سکتے ہیں۔ ایک رپورٹ کے مطابق سائنسدانوں کی بہت بڑی تعداد متفق ہے کہ ہماری زمین کا موسم تبدیل ہو رہا ہے۔ درج حرارت میں بے قاعدہ اضافہ یا کمی، برف پڑنے اور بارشوں کے اوقات یا ترتیب میں تبدیلی، سمندری سطحوں میں اضافہ اور موسموں کی شدت جو ہمارے سیارہ زمین کو بری طرح متاثر کر رہے ہیں اور یہ گرین ہاؤس گیسوں کے استعمال کی وجہ سے ہے۔ سائنسدانوں کا کہنا ہے کہ ساحلی علاقوں میں موسمیاتی تبدیلیوں سے سیلابوں کے باعث اگلی صدی کے آغاز تک کروڑوں لوگ متاثر ہوں گے۔ دنیا میں بعض شہر جیٹنگ کی طرح اس قدر آلودہ ہیں کہ وہاں سانس لینا بھی دشوار ہے۔ جیٹنگ کی ہو 11 ویں آلودہ ہے کہ وہاں ماسک کے بغیر سانس لینا محال ہے۔ پچھلی ایک صدی کے دوران عالمی سطح پر سمندری سطح میں 0.19 میٹر اوسط اضافہ ہوا، جس میں مزید تیزی سے اضافہ متوقع ہے۔ اس کی وجہ سمندروں کا درجہ حرارت بڑھنا اور گلیشیرز کا تیزی سے پگھلنا ہے۔

پشاور (شام نیوز) پشاور میں گرمی کی شدت برہتی جا رہی ہے اور گرم لوچلنے سے شہریوں کی بڑی تعداد بیمار ہو کر ہسپتالوں کا رخ کر رہی ہے۔ طبی ماہرین نے شدید گرم موسم میں احتیاطی تدابیر اختیار کرنے کی ہدایت کی ہے۔ تقصیلات کے مطابق ملک کے دیگر شہروں کی طرح صوبائی دارالحکومت پشاور میں بھی ان دنوں سورج سوائیز پر ہے اور شدید گرمی کی وجہ سے لوگوں کی حالت غیر ہے۔ دوپہر کے وقت درجہ حرارت مزید بڑھ جاتا ہے جبکہ گرم لوچلنے سے شہری بیمار ہو کر ہسپتالوں کا رخ کر رہے ہیں۔ طبی ماہرین کا کہنا ہے کہ شدید دھوپ میں نکلنے سے پہلے ایک یا دو گلاس پانی پی لینا چاہیے جبکہ سر ڈھانپ کر ہی گھر سے باہر نکلا جائے۔ بازار میں فروخت ہونے والے مشروبات پر پرہیز کیا جائے جبکہ بازاری کھانے بھی نہ کھائے جائیں۔ تازہ سبزی اور ریلے پھلوں کا استعمال گرمی میں مفید ہے۔

اللہ تعالیٰ نے اس کرہ ارض پر ایسے خطے بنائے ہیں جنہیں ہر قسم کے موسموں سے نواز ہے۔ ان میں سے ایک حصہ پاکستان بھی ہے جسے تمام قدرت کی خوبصورتی جیسے بارش، برف، مختلف اقسام کی فصلیں، سبزیوں اور پھلوں جیسی بہت سی نعمتوں سے نوازا ہے۔ پاکستان کی ترقی میں بہت سارے شعبے جات اپنا کردار کر رہے ہیں۔ لیکن ان میں سے زراعت کا شعبہ ایک کلیدی حیثیت رکھتا ہے۔ جو قدرتی وسائل کو بروئے کار لا کر ملک کی معیشت میں بالواسطہ یا بلاواسطہ اپنا اہم کردار ادا کر رہا ہے۔ اس وقت پاکستان کی معیشت میں تقریباً 21 فیصد سے 45 فیصد لوگ لیبر فورس کی شکل میں اس شعبے سے منسلک ہیں۔ پاکستان کے کل رقبہ کا 79 فیصد دیہی حصے پر مشتمل ہے جس میں سے صرف 28 فیصد حصہ قابل کاشت ہے۔ اس کا تقریباً 80 فیصد حصہ آبپاشی اور باقی بارانی حصہ پر مشتمل ہے۔ خوشگوار موسم اور زرخیز زمین کی موجودگی سے پاکستان میں تقریباً ہر قسم کی فصل لگائی جاسکتی ہے۔ مثلاً مکئی، گندم، گنا، کپاس، دھان، جوار، باجرا، جینی، موگ اور ماش وغیرہ۔ پاکستان اس وقت دنیا میں کپاس کا پانچواں بڑا آم کی پیداوار کا چھٹا اور چاول، کھجور اور مالٹے کی پیداوار میں تیسرے نمبر پر ہے۔ حالیہ اندازے کے مطابق پاکستان کی موجودہ آبادی 18 کروڑ سے تجاوز کر گئی ہے۔ اس کے برعکس زراعت میں گزشتہ چند سالوں میں بتدریج کمی دیکھنے میں آئی ہے جس کی بہت سی وجوہات ہیں اور ان کے حل مندرجہ ذیل ہیں۔ سب سے اہم ترین مسئلہ پانی کا ہے۔ جو دن بدن کم ہو رہا ہے۔ اس کی بڑی وجہ پانی کو ذخیرہ کرنے کے لئے ڈیم نہیں ہے اور اس کے علاوہ نہر سے زمین تک پہنچنے کے دوران بھی پانی ضائع ہو جاتا ہے جس کی وجہ کھال اور نہری نظام کی پچھلی اور دیکھ بھال ہے۔ ملک کی آبادی کے ساتھ ساتھ جنگلات کا کٹاؤ بھی بڑھتا چلا جا رہا ہے۔ ایک اندازے کے مطابق جنگلات 3 فیصد کے حساب سے کٹتے جا رہے ہیں جس سے زرعی زمین آبادیوں کی شکل اختیار کر رہی ہے۔ جو آنے والی نسلوں کے لئے باعث پریشانی ہو گا اور زمینی اور فضائی آلودگی کا بھی باعث ہے۔ نہری اور ڈیم ویل کے پانی استعمال کی وجہ سے ہماری زمین سیم و تھور کا شکار ہو رہی ہے۔ سروے کے مطابق ہر سال تقریباً 120 ملین ٹن نمکیات ہماری زمینوں میں شامل ہوتے ہیں۔ جس سے اب تک 2.5 ملین ہیکٹر زمین

پاکستان کے میدانی علاقے گرمی کی لپیٹ میں، لوگوں کے معمولات زندگی شدید متاثر

ساوتھ ایشین نیوز اینجینی (شام)

12 جون 2014

موسمیاتی تبدیلیوں سے اگلی صدی تک کروڑوں افراد متاثر ہو سکتے ہیں: ماہرین

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

11 جون 2014

پشاور، گرمی کی شدت میں اضافہ، لوچلنے سے شہری بیمار ہو کر ہسپتال پہنچنے لگے

ساوتھ ایشین نیوز اینجینی (شام)

10 جون 2014

بڑھتی ہوئی آبادی، زرعی پیداوار میں کمی

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

09 جون 2014

نہج ہو چکی ہے۔ اگر نمکیات اسی طرح ہماری زمینوں میں شامل ہوتے گئے تو ہم جلد ہی مزید غذائی قلت کا شکار ہو جائیں گے۔ زراعت کی ترقی و تحقیق کے لئے 5-6 یونیورسٹیز اور 15-18 تحقیقی ادارے کام کر رہے ہیں۔ جو کسانوں کے لئے اعلیٰ نسل کا بیج، کھادیں اور کسانوں کو درپیش مسائل کے حل کے لئے کام کر رہے ہیں لیکن یہ ادارے بڑھتے ہوئے مسائل کی روک تھام کے لئے بہت کم استعداد رکھتے ہیں اور ساتھ ہی تحقیق کے لئے مختص کئے گئے فنڈز بھی بہت تھوڑے ہیں۔ اچھی پیداوار حاصل کرنے کے لئے بیج بہت اہم کردار ادا کرتا ہے لیکن ہمارے پاس تقریباً 20% بیج مخصوص ہے۔ جو کسانوں کو بہت کم میسر ہے اور کسان اس کے بدلے غیر معیاری بیج استعمال کرنے پر مجبور ہے۔ جس کی وجہ سے ہم بہتر پیداوار لینے سے قاصر ہیں اور نتیجہ یہ نکلتا ہے کہ ہماری پیداوار باقی ملکوں کی نسبت بہت کم ہے۔ کسانوں کی ناخواندگی بھی زراعت کی ترقی میں بہت بڑا پتھر ہے۔ جس کے باعث کسان جدید ٹیکنالوجی کو چھوڑ کر اپنے روایتی طریقے اپناتے ہیں جو پیداوار میں کمی کا باعث بنتا ہے۔ اس لاعلمی کی وجہ سے کسان نہ تو اچھے طریقے سے ذخیرہ کر سکتے ہیں اور نہ ہی اچھی مارکیٹ میں سیل کر کے بہتر قیمت حاصل کر سکتے ہیں۔ ان تمام مسائل کے علاوہ گلوبل وارمنگ بھی سائنس دانوں اور کسانوں کے لئے مسئلہ کا باعث بن رہا ہے۔ درجہ حرارت کے بدلنے سے فصلوں کے دور حیات میں تبدیلی رونما ہو رہی ہے جس کی سنجیدگی سے غور کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ ان مسائل کے پیش نظر بہت سی تجاویز ہیں جن کی مدد سے ان مسائل کو کم کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ جیسے آبی وسائل کو بڑھانے کے لئے ڈیم بنانے کے ساتھ ساتھ آبپاشی کے جدید طریقے مثلاً ڈراپ اور آب پاشی کے چھڑ کاؤ کے بارے میں آگاہی اور استعمال کو فروغ دیا جائے۔ جنگلات کے کٹاؤ کی روک تھام کے لئے باقاعدہ قانون اور عمل کرنا ضروری ہے۔ سیم و تھور سے نجات حاصل کرنے کے لئے مٹی کے نمونے کا باقاعدہ تجزیہ کروایا جائے اور جیسیم اور نمک رو دار فصلوں کی کاشت سے متاثرہ علاقوں کو قابل کاشت بنایا جائے۔ ریسرچ کے اداروں کی تعداد میں اضافہ اور معقول فنڈز دیئے جائے تاکہ گلوبل وارمنگ اور زراعت کے مسائل کو حل کیا جائے۔ کسانوں کے لئے جدید ٹیکنالوجی کی آگاہی اور تربیت کے لئے حکومتی سطح پر اقدامات کرنا ضروری ہے اور حکومت کو اپنی پالیسی پر غور کرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ فصلوں کی خرید و فروخت کے نظام کو بہتر بنانے کی اشد ضرورت ہے۔ ان تجاویز کے پیش نظر زراعت میں جدت لانا، بہت ضروری ہے تاکہ ہماری آنے والی نسلیں خوراک کے مسائل سے دوچار نہ ہوں۔

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) وفاقی حکومت نے ضلع تھر کے قحط زدہ لوگوں کو امداد کی دوسری قسط جاری کر دی ہے۔ تقریباً 354 ملین روپے کی قسط بی آئی ایس پی سے تعلق رکھنے والے 53 ہزار سے زائد تھر متاثرین میں تقسیم کی گئی ہے۔ تھر کے قحط زدہ لوگوں کی امداد کے لیے وفاقی حکومت نے پہلا قدم اٹھاتے ہوئے یہ اعلان کیا ہے کہ نقد مالی امداد متاثرہ خاندانوں میں تقسیم کی جائے گی۔ امداد کی تقسیم کو شفاف اور موثر بنانے کی غرض سے اس بات کا فیصلہ کیا گیا کہ غربت شناری کی بنیاد پر بی آئی ایس پی کے اہل مستحقین جو ڈیٹ کارڈ حاصل کر چکے ہیں اس امداد سے فائدہ اٹھا سکیں گے۔ اپریل 2014 میں 51 ہزار سے زائد تھر مستحقین کو 6400 روپے فی کس کے حساب سے پہلی قسط ادا کی گئی۔ یہ رقم 3600 روپے کی سہ ماہی ادائیگی کے علاوہ تھی جس کا مطلب ہے کہ مالی سال 2013-14 کی تیسری سہ ماہی میں تھر کے لیے 10000 روپے کی مجموعی رقم فی مستحق ادا کی گئی۔ ایک مرتبہ پھر 51 ہزار سے زائد تھر مستحقین کو اضافی 6400 روپے فی کس ادا کئے گئے ہیں اور اس حساب سے مالی سال 2013-14 کی چوتھی سہ ماہی میں مستحقین کے لیے 10000 روپے کی مجموعی رقم فی مستحق بنتی ہے۔ مزید برآں، مستحقین تک رسائی حاصل کرنے کی مہم کے ذریعے پہلی قسط کی ادائیگی سے لے کر اب تک 1997 ضلع تھر کے مستحقین کو نقد مالی معاونت کے لیے شامل کیا جا چکا ہے۔ ان مستحقین کو دونوں اقساط 12800 روپے فی کس کے حساب سے ادا کی گئی ہیں جو بینظیر انکم سپورٹ پروگرام کی سہ ماہی مالی معاونت کے علاوہ ہیں۔ اس کے علاوہ، بی آئی ایس پی نے حال ہی میں موجودہ مالی سال کی چوتھی سہ ماہی کی قسط بھی جاری کر دی ہے اور تھر کے مستحقین امدادی رقم کے ساتھ جھبھی وصول کریں گے۔ ادائیگی کے لیے پارٹنریٹک یو بی ایل کو ضلع میں خاص انتظامات کرنے کی ہدایت کی گئی ہے تاکہ متاثرہ مستحقین ایک آسان اور باوقار طریقے سے امداد حاصل کر سکیں۔

سوات (شٹائم) سوات میں زلزلے کے جھٹکے محسوس کئے گئے۔ زلزلہ پیما مرکز خیبر پٹی کے مطابق سوات شہر اور گرد و نواح میں زلزلے کے جھٹکے محسوس کئے گئے جس کی شدت ریکٹر اسکیل پر چار اعشاریہ چھ ریکارڈ کی گئی۔ زلزلہ پیما مرکز کے مطابق زلزلے کا مرکز کوہ ہندو کش پربت سلسلہ تھا۔

اسلام آباد (شٹائم) ماہرین نے خبردار کیا ہے کہ سطح سمندر میں اضافہ کئی ایشیائی ڈیلٹاؤں میں ممکن پانی کی آمیزش میں اضافہ کرے گا جس سے نہ صرف موسمیاتی خطرات بڑھیں گے بلکہ مانی گیری کی صنعت اور دوسری آبی افزائش پر بھی تباہ کن اثرات مرتب ہوں گے۔ بیکر ٹری فشریز ڈیولپمنٹ بورڈ محمد جنید وٹو نے انوائز مینٹل وائچ ٹرسٹ کے زیر اہتمام عالمی یوم ماحولیات کی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ سمندر کے درجہ حرارت میں اضافہ، سمندری تیزابیت اور ساحلی مگوں میں کمی مچھلیوں کی افزائش پر گہرے اثرات مرتب کرے گی۔ ان وجوہ سے جنوبی اور جنوب مشرقی ایشیاء کے کئی ممالک زیادہ متاثر ہونگے۔ چیئر پرسن انوائز مینٹل وائچ ٹرسٹ شانلہ جاوید بھٹی نے کہا کہ موسمیاتی تغیرات کے پاکستان پر اثرات قدرتی آفات کے بڑھتے ہوئے خطرات کی شکل میں سامنے آچکے ہیں۔ اس کے باوجود موسمیاتی تبدیلیوں کے چیلنج کا مقابلہ کرنے کے لئے ماحولیاتی شعوری بیداری کی اہمیت و ادراک عملی اقدامات مطلوبہ پیمانے پر نہیں کیے جارہے جبکہ پاکستان موسمیاتی تبدیلیوں سے خطرے میں گھرے پہلے چند ممالک میں شامل ہے۔ چیئر مین پاکستان ایسوسی ایشن آف گرین ایگریکلچرل جرنلسٹ (پاجان) راجہ جاوید علی بھٹی نے کہا کہ ماحولیاتی بگاڑ نے پانی، زمین، ہوا اور فضاء سب کو آلودہ کر دیا ہے۔ لہذا ماحولیات کا تحفظ انفرادی، قومی، اجتماعی اور عالمی فریضہ ہے۔ بیداری فکر فورم میں ای ڈیوٹی کی تقریب ماحولیات میں فاطمہ جناح دو من یونیورسٹی راولپنڈی کی طالبات جویریہ سلیم، ہما فاروق، آسیہ وہاب، سمیعہ اقبال اور جبریل یونیورسٹی اسلام آباد کے محمد اسامہ مغل نے مشترکہ طور پر سلائیڈ شو کے ذریعے بڑھتی ہوئی سطح سمندر کے منفی اثرات کو موثر انداز میں اجاگر کیا۔ تقریب کے مہمان

وفاق کی جانب سے تھر متاثرین کی امداد کے لئے دوسری قسط جاری

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

05 جون 2014

سوات شہر اور گرد و نواح میں زلزلے کے جھٹکے

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

05 جون 2014

سطح سمندر میں اضافہ کئی ایشیائی ڈیلٹاؤں میں ممکن پانی کی آمیزش میں اضافہ کرے گا، ماہرین

ساتھ ایشین نیوز ایجنسی (شٹائم)

04 جون 2014

خصوصی محمد جنید وٹو اور مہمانان اعزاز پروفیسر منیر احمد شال، افسانہ نگار فاطمہ علوی، شاعرہ منیرہ احمد نے طلباء و طالبات میں تعریفی و شراکتی سرٹیفکیٹس تقسیم کیے۔
اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) پاکستان چین کی مدد سے ریموٹ سینسنگ سیٹلائٹ تیار کرنے کا منصوبہ بنا رہا ہے۔ نئے مالی سال میں منصوبے پر 70 کروڑ روپے
خرچ کرنے کی تجویز ہے۔ سیٹلائٹ پر 19 ارب 69 کروڑ روپے لاگت آئے گی۔

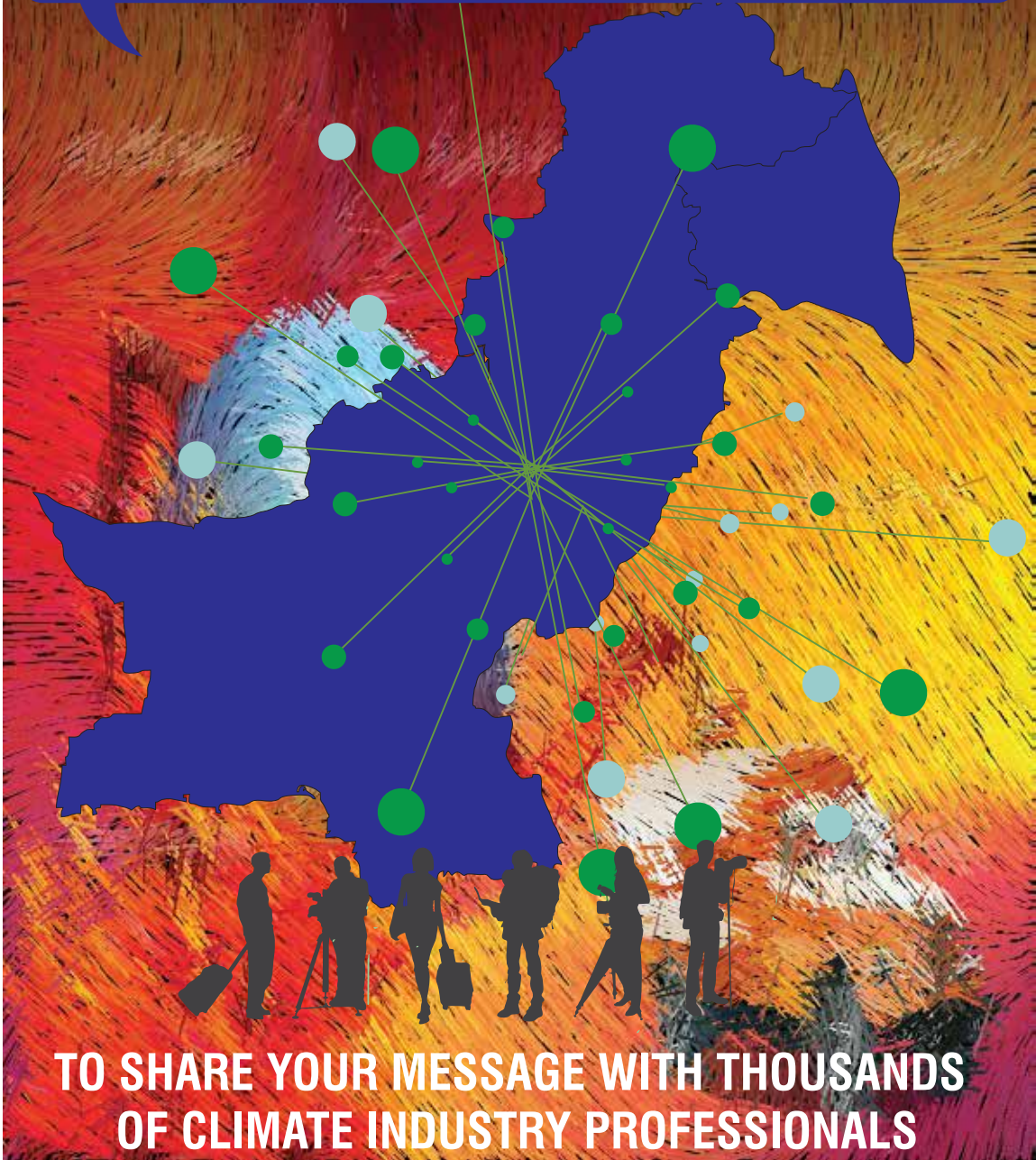
پاکستان چین کی مدد سے ریموٹ سینسنگ

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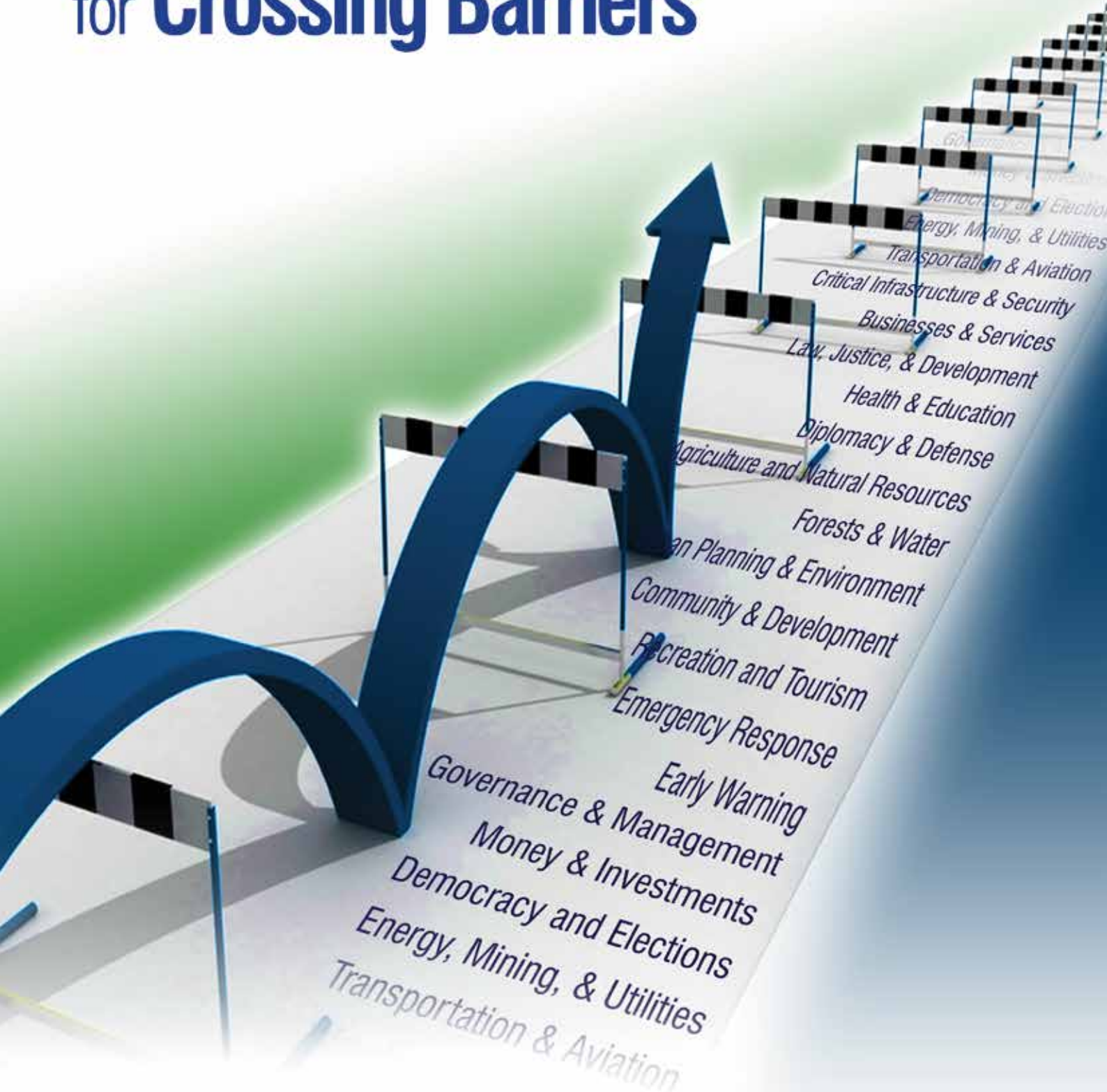
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