

AN ASSESSMENT OF FLOODS IN BALOCHISTAN

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This year, Since June 14th Pakistan received 77 percent more rains. As a result, we could see spell of heavy rainfall in Balochistan, which resulted in extreme flash floods afterwards. Pakistan has been experiencing heavy monsoon rains lately. Although these heavy rains are experienced across Pakistan, but this time it has been severely affecting the Province of Balochistan.

Balochistan has been flooded once again after the life-threatening flash floods back on 20 February 2019. The recent monsoon spell in the country has severely affected Balochistan, leaving destruction in its way as more than 100 people lost their lives and thousands of homes were destroyed.

It was reported that 17,000 people have been rescued so far and rescue operations are still underway to move 2,000 people to secure locations. The top official added that the leaves of all government employees have been cancelled in the wake of the disastrous rains.

According to the latest PDMA report **“At least 166 people have lost their lives in rain-related incidents in Balochistan since June 1, while 76 others have been injured during this period”**

Meanwhile, a large number of people, including women and children, were stranded in flood waters in Lasbela district. There has been

severe power outages and food shortage as well

“We have launched a rescue operation to evacuate the people” Mir Ziaullah Langove, the Balochistan Home Minister told the Media. He further added that the rescue workers of the PDMA have rescued over 100 stranded people in the district and shifted them to safer places.

“The Authority said that several roads and bridges were washed away by floods. The rains have damaged 15,337 houses in the province since June 1, out of which 10,129 were partially damaged and 3,406 were destroyed.

The cause of such heavy flooding is straightforward. It is *the Climatic Change* caused by Global Warming effects that are faced around the world. We all are well aware that Global warming is a significant global issue that must be addressed but the question is, what *aggravates* the extensive damage caused by Floods?

Floods are an example of natural disaster and are considered as a risk. While risk can not be eliminated, it can, very well be mitigated or reduced to an acceptable level where its impact is insignificant. This is possible by taking preventive measures or taking timely remedial actions.

Many other countries experience heavy floodings, but successfully manage the impact

of the Floods. Where as, Balochistan being heavily impacted because of flood has a lot to do with how poorly prepared it was for the rains. Balochistan has always been an underdeveloped province of Pakistan. **There is lack of emergency protocols including early warning systems and rehabilitation systems. Dams are not timely constructed so excessive water after rains can not be stored.**

One major reason for Balochistan being an underdeveloped province is the high level of political instability within the province. Balochistan is poor. It does not have many seats in Parliament and because MNAs are expected to fight for provincial funds, it does not get much federal largesse. Also, because governments in Quetta are not formed without interference from certain quarters, they are not representative, and thus unable to provide the province with a normal mechanism for handling the floods.

Majority of the houses in Balochistan are made of mud and are under-developed. It is partially because development money does not perceive as great results as in other provinces and partly because the population is small and widely spread out.



"During the presser, a National Highway Authority official mentioned that the Hub Bridge was built in 1962 and after the heavy rains filled the dam, it overflowed and in turn, damaged the bridge. He said that new bridges will be constructed on an "emergency basis" in Hub. Repair works are also underway on N-25 and M-8 roads, he added"

Balochistan's difficulty might not end there as the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast more rains in the province. The PMD said that rains and thundershowers are expected to hit Quetta, Chaman, Harnai, Zhob, Ziarat, Barkhan, Loralai, Bolan, Kohlu, Kalat, Khuzdar, Lasbella, Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Sibbi.

It has also been reported that the flood has badly affected Kohlu district and hundreds of acres of standing crops have been washed away in flood channels, while 23,013 cattle have been swept away by floodwaters

According to an Agro-Climate study on Balochistan, Kohlu district is a part of Zone 5. The main crops of the zone are Wheat, Cotton, Pulses, Almonds, Apricot, Cherry, And Pomegranate. Furthermore, Balochistan grows a number of other significant crops such as

Onions, Sunflower, Rice, Fodder, Dates, Grapes, Potatoes. These fruits and crops are not just used across Pakistan but are also exported to other countries. The flood has severely affected these crops and has completely washed off some of them. The exact statistics and magnitude of the damage will be determined once the alarming situation resolves.

However, a tentative estimate of losses specifically of crop, orchards, vegetables, fodder has been provided at the end of this article.

It is not just Balochistan that has been suffering from the climatic change and its adverse consequences but Pakistan as a whole. The upcoming monsoon will put all four provinces Pakistan to the risk. Although, Balochistan has been the most impacted so far, monsoonal flood damage is also expected to increase as the climate changes similar to the recent heat wave. It is strongly expected that the monsoon floods may get worse but by now this should hardly be a new problem for Pakistan. With such a great shift in the climate, it would have been ideal that Pakistan started the monsoon preparations for this year and for the upcoming years. Pakistan should invest in efficient forecasting technology. After all, these floods come with the monsoons each year and are often foreseeable.

FACT CHECK

Disaster Situation in Pakistan

As of 31 July, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) reported that the floods have resulted in:

- 434 deaths (including 175 children and 73 women)
- 605 people have been injured since 1st July 2022
- More than 36,469 households have been affected, of which 60% are in Balochistan.
- More than 29,067 houses have been partially damaged
- Another 7,402 houses have been fully damaged
- Around 800 schools (600 in Balochistan alone) have been affected.
- 71 bridges, and 977 km of road sections have also been affected across the country.



CROPS IN BALOCHISTAN (AGRO-CLIMATE STUDY)

The table below is a part of the AGRO-Climate Study which was conducted to determine the major Agricultural crops in the province of Balochistan. The table demonstrates the major crops at each district and gives us an idea about the crops that are severely affected as a result of the floods in Balochistan.

Zone	Districts	Elevation (m)	Ave. Rain (mm)	Ave. Max Temp (oC)	Ave. Min Temp (oC)	Ave. ETo (mm/day)	Major crops
I.	Gwadar, Turbat, Panjgur	5-900	36-110	27.0-36.5	15.5-21	6.75-10.5	Dates, wheat, onion, fodder
II.	Chagai, Kharan	700-1600	30-160	26.0-32.5	9.0-17	5.10-8.5	Dates, wheat, onion
III.	Lasbela, Awaran	5-900	110-250	31.0-36.0	15-20	5.5-6.25	Wheat, cotton, onion, fodder
IV.	Kalat, Khuzdar (30% West)	400-1900	90-200	22.5-33.50	7-17	4.5-5.75	Wheat, potato, onion, cherry, apple
V.	Quetta, Pishin, Mastung, Qila Abdullah, Qila Saifullah (60% West), Ziarat	700-1600	200-280	24.0-31.5	8-15	5.5-6.5	Grapes, apple, apricot, cherry, pomegranate, potato, onion, sunflower
VI.	Musakhel, Loralai, Kholu, Barkhan, Zhob, Qila Saifullah (40% East)	750-1500	200-400	26.0-31.5	11-15.5	4.75-5.50	Wheat, cotton, pulses, almond, apricot, cherr, pomegranate
VII.	Khuzdar (70% east), Jhal Magsi, Nasirabad, Jaffarabad, Bolan, Sibi, Dera Bugti	300-1200	180-400	26.5-35.5	14-19	4.75-6.08	Wheat, cotton, onion, sunflower, rice, pulses, fodder, dates

Following is a summary of the destructions caused by the Floods, Rain and windstorms

TENTATIVE ESTIMATE OF FLOODS/RAIN/WIND STORMS LOSSES 2022 IN BALOCHISTAN									
S.#	Name of District	Crops Losses		Orchards Losses		Vegetables Losses		Fodders Losses	
		Acres	Million Rupees	Acres	Million Rupees	Acres	Million Rupees	Acres	Million Rupees
1	Kech	652	545	6212	788	83	150	432	424
2	Punjgoor	660	550	3050	388	54	90		
3	Gawader	365	33	80	2	28	4	148	12
4	Kharan	350	32	150	4	50	7	130	
5	Washuk	300	27	250	6	80	11	40	
6	Chaghi	200	18	50	1	90	12.5	80	
7	Noshki	35	11	30	15	185	28		
8	Mustang			7221	1458	1040	234	233	218
9	Kalat	325	94	91	19	189	43		
10	Khuzdar	178	51.5	5	4	250	15		
11	Sorab	90	26	2	1.5	20	1		
12	Lasbella	50,000	4900	800	240	5500	825	3000	75
13	Awaran	3212	963.6			566	45		
14	Sibi	3400	1020			650	52		
15	Kohlu	1030	404	25	3	310	28		
16	Harnai	990	388	140	17	230	20		
17	Ziarat			250	30	30	3		
18	Dera Bugti	400	60			80	8		
19	Kachhi/Bolan	540	81			90	9	150	
20	Naseerabad	200	32						
21	Jafarabad	150	24					130	
22	Sohbut Pur	500	80						
23	Jhal Magsi	330	53						
24	Quetta			678	269	512	179		
25	Pishin	632	316	820	492	1060	212		
26	Killa abdulla	250	125	590	354	260	52		
27	Chaman	30	15	360	216	120	24		
28	Loralai					553	111		
29	Musakhail	700	11.2	40	8.96	820			
30	Barkhan	1200	19.2	500	112	1500	3000		
31	Duki	106	34.8			175	87		
32	Zhob	120	12	280	19.2	150		20	
33	Killa Saifullah	90	9	330	19.2	200		40	
34	Sherani	15	1.5	6	2.5	7	1.5		

