The economic and social damage caused by disasters in Pakistan presents an enormous challenge to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. From a development perspective, increasing the resilience of people and communities is not optional, but mandatory.

Disaster Risk Reduction Programme

Pakistan is highly vulnerable to disasters caused by natural hazards. The country ranks 5th on the Global Climate Risk Index of countries most affected by climate change. In the last decade, a range of disasters triggered by natural hazards have affected over 50 million people and caused US$25.5 billion in damages and 80,708 fatalities. As recently as September 2020, nationwide flooding has claimed 400 lives.

Climate change and variability in weather patterns mean that weather-related disasters will become more frequent, intense and unpredictable. From a national development perspective, it is therefore imperative to reduce disaster risk and increase the resilience of people and systems. To support this area, UNDP has been working in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in accordance with its mandate and core competencies. The DRR Programme aims to enhance the government’s capacity to reduce disaster risk at the national, provincial and district levels, and to support resilience building for at-risk communities.

Quick Facts

Duration: 2018 – 2022
Outcome: Enhanced resilience of crisis-affected communities
Implementing partners: National, Provincial and District Disaster Management Authorities, LEAD Pakistan
Funding partner: FAO, DFID
Location: Ghotki, Kashmore, Dadu, Tharparkar, Jhang, Rajanpur, Muzaffargarh, D.I. Khan, Chitral
Annual budget (2020): US$ 428,055
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Objectives

- Policy and institutional support to relevant national and subnational stakeholders on disaster risk reduction programming and implementation
- Support in enhancing the resilience of at-risk communities through community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM)
- Promotion of DRR/DRM practices and technologies to enhance resilience

Expected results

- Authorities at the national, provincial and district levels will prevent, assess, manage and reduce risks more effectively.
- Crisis-affected populations in Pakistan will be better able to anticipate, cope with, adapt to and recover from disaster shocks and stresses
- Vulnerable populations will have enhanced capacity to reduce risks and vulnerabilities at the local level

Main achievements

- UNDP provided technical assistance to NDMA in developing the following: a national plan of action on Sendai Framework for DRR (SFDRR), and Early Recovery Need Assessment (ERNA) guidelines & Toolkit.
- UNDP supported NDMA in establishing a SFDRR monitoring and reporting cell.
- Organized capacity enhancement trainings of key government counterparts on DRM and CCA in Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- UNDP supported the provincial disaster management authorities of Sindh and Punjab in formulation of Public Private Partnership Strategies to ensure sustainable resources for DRM
- UNDP assisted selected vulnerable districts of Sindh (Ghotki & Kashmore) and Punjab (Muzaffargarh and Rajanpur) to developed district DRM plans and Emergency Operation Centres. UNDP is in the process of establishing DEOCs and formulating DRM plans in 5 additional districts (Dadu, Tharparkar, Jhang, D.I. Khan and Chitral).
- Established more than 100 village disaster management committees and Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs) were formed in selected districts of Balochistan, Sindh and Khyber- Pakhtunkhwa which increased the level of communities’ understanding of hazards, exposure, vulnerabilities and capacities.
- UNDP capacitated selected district administrations in early warning systems by providing trainings and equipment that strengthened linkages amongst communities, civil society, and government institutions.
- Innovation and youth participation in COVID-19 response were encouraged through three provincial digital hackathons held for KP, Sindh and Punjab. Participants pitched innovative solutions to DRR related issues, including climate change, locust attacks, and COVID-19 response.

What's next?

- Continued institutional strengthening and research support to disaster management authorities at national, sub-national and local levels.
- SFDRR localization and alignment of relevant national policies and plan with international frameworks.
- Promotion and support to public private partnership in DRR and creation of pilot resilience models.
- Development of capacities at national, provincial and district levels through online training courses on DRR, CCA and Early Recovery Needs Assessment (ERNA).
- Supporting the implementation of Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) and enhancement of community resilience through Climate Change Adaptation (floods, earthquake, GLOF, tsunami and cyclone)
- Mainstreaming DRR into local governance and development planning and support district government in developing DRR plans.