



PAKISTAN

National Disaster Management Programme

Disaster Context

Pakistan is located in a region that is prone to a number of natural disasters. Due to its diverse range of terrain, the country is susceptible to wide-ranging hazards from droughts to floods to earthquakes to cyclones. Pakistan has been suffering from a major drought for the last four years, which is unfortunately continuing with varying degrees all over the country. With the exception of drought years, Pakistan has suffered almost every year from floods as monsoon rains cause rivers to overflow their banks. Almost all of Pakistan regularly experiences earthquakes ranging from moderate to severe in intensity. In addition, the coastal areas of the country are prone to cyclones.

There is no comprehensive, integrated disaster management policy at the national level, and the country also lacks a proper system for disaster prevention and preparedness. Such a system could ensure effective mitigation and greatly reduce the loss of life and material in case of natural disasters. Disaster management is unfortunately seen as the provision of relief rather than the management of all phases of a disaster situation or long-term management of risk.

The situation strongly advocates the need for a disaster management structure, a comprehensive preparedness and mitigation strategy, as well as a mitigation policy in order to better manage and coordinate activities of the various line ministries and departments and civil society. There is also a need for research on traditional and current coping mechanisms and on sustainable community approaches to disaster reduction.

Project Title

National Disaster Management Programme
(PAK/02/004)

Sectors

- Policy development
- Disaster preparedness and mitigation
- Institutional strengthening

Funding

UNDP contributed \$55,000 from TRAC 1.1.3 funds that will be used for undertaking this initiative and preparation of a full-scale project proposal.

Partners

- Emergency Relief Cell, Cabinet Division, Government of Pakistan
- National Crisis Management Cell, Ministry of Interior, Government of Pakistan
- Provincial Planning and Development Departments
- Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Programme Activities

- Review the findings of a study recently undertaken on the status of emergency services in the country with the objective of developing a responsive emergency services system
- Undertake a comprehensive review of the existing system of disaster management in the country and propose a responsive early warning, preparedness and coordination mechanism
- Field a short-term consultant specializing in emergency response systems to address the issues related to the emergency response services
- Consolidate the findings and formulate a full-scale project proposal
- Present the proposal to the government and donor community and launch activities by raising needed cost-sharing resources