Quick Facts

- Duration: May 2011 - April 2015
- Implementation Partners: Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan
- Funding Partner: Adaptation Fund
- Geographical Location: Bindo Gol (Drongagh, Gohkir & Shogram) Valley in Chitral District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province and Bagrot Valley in Gilgit District, Gilgit-Baltistan.
- Annual Budget (2013): USD 890,828

This is the first climate change adaptation project at the Government level which aims to reduce risks and vulnerabilities from glacial lake outburst floods and flash floods in Northern Pakistan. 'Reducing Risks and Vulnerabilities from Glacial Lake Outburst Floods in Northern Pakistan' (GLOF) project is a joint collaboration of the Government of Pakistan, UNDP and the Adaptation Fund. The Ministry of Climate Change is implementing the project while UNDP in Pakistan is providing technical assistance and oversight to the project.

Objective

To develop the human and technical capacity of public institutions to understand and address immediate glacial lake outburst floods risks for vulnerable communities in Northern Pakistan. The project will also enable vulnerable local communities in the Northern Areas of Pakistan to better understand and respond to glacial lake outburst floods risks and thereby adapt to growing climate change pressures.
Expected Results

- Strengthened institutional capacities to implement policies, plans and investments that prevent human and material losses from glacial lake outburst floods events in vulnerable areas of Northern Pakistan;
- Improved access of disaster management planners and policy makers to knowledge, information and research on glacial lake outburst floods risks;
- Reduced human and material losses in vulnerable communities in the Northern Areas of Pakistan through glacial lake outburst floods early warnings and other adaptation measures;
- Lesson learnt from this project will be disseminated and shared with policy makers and disaster management planners in Pakistan and the wider Karakoram, Hindukush and Himalaya region.

Main Achievements

Since the project’s inception workshop and launch in November 2011, the following progress has been made:

- Orientation workshops held in Peshawar and Chitral to create ownership by the key stakeholders and beneficiary communities on board;
- For the first time, meteorological observatories were installed at both pilot sites/target valleys at Bagrot and Bindo Gol and are completely functional. Meteorological data is recorded by trained community volunteers on a regular basis;
- Base line studies on knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) and glacial lake outburst floods socioeconomic impact studies conducted in both the pilot sites;
- Awareness raising workshops on climate change including glacial lake outburst floods issues held for communities, government officials and local non government organizations;
- The capacity need assessment exercise conducted in Islamabad, Gilgit and Chitral to identify and address the key capacity gaps in the glacial lake outburst floods risk management at various levels to enhance the capability of the relevant stakeholders of the project;
- The planned surveys and data collection for risk and vulnerability assessment and feasibility surveys for the establishment of automatic weather stations have been completed.

What’s Next?

- Installation of Early Warning System at both pilot sites;
- Development of glacial lake outburst floods communication and awareness raising strategy;
- Strengthening of district disaster response cells and relevant lined departments in Chitral and Gilgit;
- Development of glacial lake outburst floods risk reduction plans of Bagrot and Bindo Gol (Drongagh) and districts Chitral and Gilgit;
- Conduct case studies to document best practices on glacial lake outburst floods related disasters;
- The glacial lake outburst floods phenomena and the climate change adaptation approach require multi-disciplinary expertise to cope with the disaster risk reduction challenges and designing of adaptation measures in Pakistan, therefore, dialogues for broader collaboration with relevant institutions are in progress.

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