People carry belongings from a flooded home in Shikarpur, Pakistan, on Wednesday.
Photo: Asif Hassan / AFP via Getty Images

Research on Reconstruction after Natural Disaster and Human Rights Protecti

on in Pakistan

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Research Report
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Introduction

From June to August 2022, a torrential rain combined with a flooding hit Pakistan, resulting in a natural disaster. According to NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority), in the flood more than 1700 people lost their lives (one third were children), and nearly 8 million were displaced. The flood also devastated millions of homes and key infrastructure, submerging entire villages, resulting in an increase of the national poverty rate from 3.7 to 4.0 percentage points, (equal to 8.4 and 9.1 million people living into poverty). More than an half of all the district of the country were declared "calamity hit", and they were all amongst the poorest districts in the country.

Pakistan is among the top 10 countries most affected by climate change, as observed in the increased frequency and severity of tropical storms and rains, which can lead to extended and frequent riverine floods, affecting economic and human development. In the summer of 2022, some of the hit area were subjected to unprecedented rainfall. In the aftermath of 2010 floods (which affected 20 million people) Pakistan invested in disaster risk management. The country had taken critical steps to develop its long-term policies, including the National Disaster Management Plan and National Flood Protection Plan IV. However, challenges persisted.

International law

When there is a natural disaster people do not lose their rights. Thus, in the situation of a natural disaster all human beings are protected by international human rights law, meaning they are guaranteed and can enjoy basic human rights. There are however some human rights that are particularly relevant in the context of reconstruction after a natural disaster. According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the following rights have been identified as very relevant: right to life; right to adequate food, water, clothing, housing and sanitation; right to livelihood; right to health and medical services; right to education; right to liberty and security of the person; right to be protected from exploitation and violence; right to non-discrimination (IFRC, 2020, p. 17-18). Some of the mentioned rights will be discussed more in depth in the following sections.

International human rights law is important in the context of natural disasters in order to hold governments accountable when they fail to prevent or reduce the risk of disaster, as well as give them the primary responsibility to protect human rights in their jurisdiction (Ferris, 2014). There are no legally binding set of norms that guide the actions of the actors involved in aid and recovery after a natural disaster, which can result in "inefficient delivery of aid, lack of accountability amongst humanitarian actors, and overall poor response to catastrophes" (Cameron, 2017). The only international human rights treaty that explicitly references disasters is the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). In fact, Article 11 of the CRPD (2006) states that

> *States Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.*

Other than that, there is no link between natural disasters and international human rights law. In order to remedy this, the International Law Commission (ILC) prepared the Draft Articles on the protection of persons in the event of a disaster, which basically takes a right-based approach to the protection of persons during all different stages in the event of a natural disaster (IFRC, 2020, p. 20). In 2016, the Draft Articles were submitted to the UN General Assembly and states were invited to submit comments to the recommendation by the ILC to create a legally binding treaty on the basis of the Articles (IFRC, 2020, p. 20). Although there is still no consensus on forming a legally binding treaty, they can be considered a core framework in international disaster law. Some of the Draft Articles that can be relevant for the reconstruction phase are Article 5, which asserts the respect and protection of human rights for people affected by disasters, and Article 10, which places primary responsibility for fulfilling human rights to states (IFRC, 2020, p. 20).

Furthermore, other international legal frameworks have to be considered in the reconstruction phase, which can be international norms or soft law, such as declarations, recommendations or guidelines. For instance, international refugee law comes into play as refugees can be affected by natural disasters in the country they reside as well as when people are internally displaced due to natural disasters (IFRC, 2020, p. 18). The United Nations (UN) Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement from 1998 in fact define internally displaced persons (IDPs) as people who have been forced to flee or leave their homes also as a result of natural disasters, and it lays the international standards for the rights and guarantees relevant for the protection of IDPs in all phases of displacement (IFRC, 2020, p. 21). There have also been other different activities and declarations adopted within the UN that concern disaster management. Probably the landmark resolution within the disaster management context is the Resolution 46/182, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1991, which concerns the strengthening of the co-ordination of UN humanitarian emergency assistance and establishes a framework for international disaster relief activities (IFRC, 2020, p. 19). It is important as it highlights that each State has the responsibility to help and protect the victims of natural disasters (IFRC, 2020, p. 20). Similarly, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015, reiterated that one of the principles guiding the management of the risk of disasters is the promotion and protection of all human rights (19(c)). After the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, the UN Human Rights Council dedicated for the first time a special session to human rights issues in the aftermath of a natural disaster, and then continued to work on the relationship between the protection and promotion of human rights in post-disaster situations (Ferris, 2014, p. 177).

Other guidelines that are important when it comes to reconstruction after natural disasters and human rights protection are the The Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance (IDRL Guidelines) and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Operational Guidelines on the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disasters. The latter provide guidance to humanitarian organisations working in the aftermath of a disaster and emphasise that everyone affected by a natural disaster should enjoy the same rights and freedoms under international human rights law in their country as everyone else and not be discriminated against (Ferris, 2014, p. 179). This means that people affected by natural disasters do not lose their basic human rights, but they might also have particular needs and require specific protection measures related to the disaster. The Operational Guidelines "stress that human rights encompass not only civil and political rights but also economic, social and cultural rights", but, when in a situation of a disaster, it can be difficult to simultaneously promote all rights (Ferris, 2008). Therefore, the guidelines divided the rights in different groups as in an emergency some rights should be addressed before others, like access to water might be more relevant than issuing identity cards to those displaced (Ferris, 2008). However, to fully protect human rights after a natural disaster, all rights should be equally respected. These guidelines also stress again that states have the primary responsibility to provide assistance and protect

human rights to those affected (Ferris, 2014, p. 179). On the other hand, the IDRL guidelines "are a set of recommendations to governments about how to prepare their disaster laws and plans to mitigate the common regulatory problems that arise in international disaster response operations" (IFRC, n.d.).

In conclusion, although there are no legally binding treaties on the link between human rights and natural disasters, the existing international human rights framework and principles of international disaster response law establish that all people affected by natural disasters should have their basic human rights protected. This is primarily the responsibility of states, meaning that in the situation of a natural disaster in Pakistan, the country should promote and protect all basic human rights to the victims in all stages.

Pakistan Domestic Law and Policies

The 2022 floods were not the first large-scale national disaster that has affected Pakistan and these disasters over the years have led to the creation and legislation of disaster risk management programmes and institutions. Especially the 2005 earthquake and the 2010 floods have been catalysers for the improvement of the disaster risk management policies of Pakistan. In the 2005 earthquake in Kashmir nearly 75000 people were killed and over 3 million homes partly destroyed (UNDRR, 2019). In the 2010 floods over 20 million people and 20% of the land was affected (The World Bank, 2013). The 2022 floods were even more deadly and widespread than these previous disasters, and it is estimated that over 33 million people have been affected and one-third of the country has been flooded (MOPDSI, 2022). However, it is likely that more intense natural disaster will affect Pakistan due to climate change and the fact that Pakistan is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world and has been ranked as one of the 10 most climate vulnerable countries (Eckstein, Künzel & Schäfer, 2021). The World Bank estimated in 2017 that in the previous decade alone there was 18 billion USD in damage caused by natural disasters alone (Khan, 2017). Therefore, the risk management policies and legislation will become ever more important in the future for Pakistan.

The first legislation in Pakistan that directly addressed emergency response was the Calamities Act of 1958. This Act was a national set of guidelines that could help the actions of the government of Pakistan in responding to emergencies and bringing relief to the affected places (UNDRR, 2019). The approach was focused on emergency response, rather than disaster reduction or prevention and a variety of emergency response institutions were tasked with responding to disasters after they had taken place (Ahmed, 2013). After the devastating 2005 earthquake that had killed nearly 75,000 people new legislation was passed that started to include some aspects of preventive disaster management (Ahmed, 2013; UNDRR, 2019). On a specific level, the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority Act was passed in 2011, but it retroactively applied from 2007 onwards, to establish a framework of authority that would deal with the response and reconstruction of the affected areas of that earthquake and of potential future earthquakes (UNDDR, 2019).

However, more generally and importantly, the Ordinance of 2006 established the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). This authority was tasked with providing an overarching disaster risk management approach to the whole of Pakistan (Ahmed, 2013). In 2007 it published the National Disaster Risk Management Framework for the period of 2007 to 2012. This was a framework that set out to guide the actions of the different disaster management authorities by providing guiding principles and yearly priorities and it focused, for the first time, on disaster risk reductions (UNDDR, 2019). However, the emergency response and disaster sphere remained plagued with a plethora of

actors with different and overlapping responsibilities who did not communicate, and a clear national structure was missing (Ahmed, 2013). Ahmed (2013) shows that apart from the NDMA and other national political institutions there were organisations involved like "the Federal Flood Commission, Provincial Irrigation departments, the Water and Power Development Authority, the Dams Safety Council, Civil Defence, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, the Emergency Relief Cell, fire services, the National Crises Management Cell (NCMC), the Pakistan Meteorology Department, the Space and Upper Atmospheric Research Commission, the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority, the armed forces, the police and the National Volunteer Movement.". This system was essentially unworkable, however, change would not happen until the next big natural disaster hit Pakistan (Ahmed, 2013)

After the 2010 floods that affected over 20 million people new legislation was passed to attempt to address the many shortcomings in the prevention and response to the 2010 floods (The World Bank, 2013). The government of Pakistan passed the National Disaster Management Act of 2010. This Act officially established the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) as the national-level authority on disaster management, additionally it created the Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) and District Management Authorities (DDMAs) to address disaster risk management at all three levels of governance. As part of the further institutionalisation of the disaster risk management the Act created the National Disaster Management Commission (NDMC) and the Provincial Disaster Management Commissions (PDMCs) to function as the policymaking body on disaster management. The NDMA and the authorities at the other levels would function as the executive of these policies and ensure the implementation (Ahmed, 2013). These institutions were created to provide a clear, hierarchical, and complete framework of disaster risk management on the national, provincial and district levels (UNDDR, 2019). This 2010 Act was highly influential in the current disaster management structure of Pakistan.

The NDMC together with the NDMA published many plans and roadmaps between 2010 and 2022 aiming to prevent and prepare Pakistan for natural disaster and to create community resilience and build capacity. These include important policy documents such as the National Disaster Management Plan (2012-2022), the National Flood Protection Plan (2015-2025), the National Disaster Management Plan Implementation Road Map (2016-2030), and the National Disaster Response Plan (2019). Additionally, specific plans and policies with regards to vulnerable groups were created such as the National Policy Guidelines on Vulnerable Groups in Disasters (2014) (UNDRR, 2019). However, whilst many plans were written down and many institutions created, actual implementation of disaster risk management was lacking. Ahmed (2013) argues that due to lack of political commitment, bad governance, rampant corruption, overambitious plans and economic constraints barely any of the

policies or plans have been implemented in an effective way, if they have been implemented at all. Especially disaster prevention and mitigation policies are lacking, with most resources still focused on emergency responses as only then political will to act emerges (Anees, 2022). For example, the Supreme Court Commission observed that the 2010 floods were catastrophic in its fatalities because of the ineffective implementation of the disaster risk management policies (Ahmed, 2013). As Anees (2022) summarizes it: the plans, strategies, institutions, and policies are "merely limited to paper".

At the start of 2022 the NDMA conducted the yearly Monsoon Contingency Planning Exercise to prepare and plan for the coming monsoon season, however, none of the stakeholders anticipated or were prepared for the scale that would come (MOPDSI, 2022). To guide the humanitarian response to the floods the Pakistani government created the National Flood Response and Coordination Centre (NFRCC). This Centre included federal ministries, provincial governments, and the Armed Forces of Pakistan (MOPDSI, 2022). Later on in 2022 the government of Pakistan together with the UN launched the Pakistan Floods Response Plan (FRP) to address the most immediate needs of the people affected by the floods such as provisions of shelter, food times, safe drinking water and health interventions (MOPDSI, 2022). Later one, the government of Pakistan, together with the Asian Development Bank, the European Union, the United Nations and the World Bank, wrote a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) to further estimate the damage the floods have done and what is needed for the reconstruction (MOPDSI, 2022).

Overall, the domestic law and policies in Pakistan officially provide for a comprehensive framework for disaster risk management based on the 2010 national legislation. However, in practice the implementation of these policies is ineffective and inconsistent (Anees, 2022; Ahmed, 2013). There is an overall absence of political will and economic resources to invest in preventive measures and the mitigation of disasters, with most attention only occurring after national disasters have already occurred and the damage is already done. The 2022 floods are an exemplification of this.

Impact on National Economy

Although Pakistan usually encounters 70 percent of rainfall in the months of July and August, in the summer of 2022, Pakistan was overwhelmed with 190 percent of normal rainfall for the these two specific months (Nabi, 2023). Baluchistan on the Western frontiers and Sindh in the southern Pakistan usually unaffected by the monsoon season received abnormal percentages of rainfall amounting to more than 450 percent (Nabi, 2023). Consequently, the flood basins were saturated with water and the drainage system got swamped with vast areas of rich agricultural lands and human settlements lost (Nabi, 2023). The August 2022 catastrophic floods have further burdened Islamabad with deep macroeconomic and political instability. The economic implications exacerbated by the floods are a rapidly increasing trade deficit, forthcoming debt service obligations and fast depleting foreign reserves (Nabi, 2023).

The floods also submerged one third of Pakistan's land area, displaced over eight million people and two million homes, 13,000 kilometres of highways, 439 bridges and more than four million acres of agricultural land was lost (Nabi, 2023; Gul, 2022; the World Bank, 2022). An estimate number of nine million or more people are at the risk of being forced into poverty as a direct outcome of these floods. The economic losses amount to roughly 2.2 percent of GDP, with the agricultural sector accounting for the largest decline at 0.9 percent (Nabi, 2023; Gul, 2022). In totality, the 2022 floods affected 33 million people and more than 1730 lives were lost (The World Bank, 2022). The projected recovery and reconstruction needs of Pakistan stand at almost twice the budgeted national development expenditure of Pakistan for the financial year 2023 (Nabi, 2023, p.4).

A 2022 'damage, loss and needs'-based assessment conducted by the World Bank following the floods in Pakistan estimated total damages to exceed $14.9 billion, total economic losses to reach about $15.2 billion and total estimated needs for rehabilitation and reconstruction in a resilient way requiring at least $16.3 billion (The World Bank, 2023). A 'Post- Disaster Needs Assessment' (PDNA) was conducted jointly by the Pakistani Government, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Union (EU), and United Nations technical subsidiaries such as UNDP (Nabi, 2023; the World Bank, 2022). The PDNA also assessed the broader macro-economic and human development implications and recommended strategies along which to develop a comprehensive recovery reconstruction framework (The World Bank, 2023). The core priorities of the Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Framework (4RF) are the revival of livelihoods and agriculture; rebuilding of private housing; and the reconstruction of public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, schools, and hospitals (Nabi, 2023).

Experts have argued that Pakistan's 2022 floods were caused by climate change-induced increase increased temperatures and emissions for which Global North (developed) countries were primarily responsible. Therefore, the COP-27 discussions in Egypt set in the backdrop of Pakistan's floods helped forge consensus that developed states ought to promote climate financing and compensate poor vulnerable countries suffering from climate change disasters (Nabi, 2023). The successful climate change negotiations in Egypt also led to the establishment of a 'loss and damage' fund to assist to developing nations hit hard by climate disasters (UN Climate Change, 2022). Since the recovery and reconstruction needs will exceed Pakistan's available resources, and assistance from foreign entities will be paramount if the state is to rebuild itself in a resilient manner, the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations co-hosted the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan (Nabi, 2023; UNDP, 2023).

The two main objectives of the Conference were to present the Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Framework (4RF) and secure international support and forge long-term partnerships for building Pakistan's climate resilience and adaptation (Nabi, 2023; UNDP, 2023). Pakistan secured total pledges of $10.57 billion from multilateral and bilateral creditors for its reconstruction efforts. The individual breakdown of the financial pledges is - Islamic Development Bank Group $4.2 billion; World Bank $2 billion (revised up to $2.7 billion); Asian Development Bank $1.5 billion; Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank $1 billion; Saudi Arabia $1 billion; France $345 million; China $100 million; US $100 million; EU $93 million; Germany $88 million ; and Japan $77 million (Nabi, 2023; Haider, 2023).

TABLE 1. DAMAGE, LOSS, AND NEEDS BY REGION

	Damage		Loss		Needs	
Region	(Billion PKR)	(Million US$)	(Billion PKR)	(Million US$)	(Billion PKR)	(Million US$)
Balochistan	349	1,625	541	2,516	491	2,286
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	201	935	141	658	168	780
Punjab	111	515	122	566	160	746
Sindh	1,948	9,068	2,444	11,376	1,688	7,860
Cross-Provincial[12]	587	2,731	14	67	975	4,540
Special Regions[13]	7	32	11	49	10	48
Grand Total	**3,202**	**14,906**	**3,272**	**15,233**	**3,493**	**16,261**

(Source: Pakistan Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives, p.14)

The PDNA suggests that national poverty rate will increase by 3.7 to 4 percent, pushing between 8.4 and 9.1 million people into poverty, as a direct consequence of the floods (Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, 2022). Similarly, 'multidimensional' poverty will also increase by 5.9 percent , meaning that an additional 1.9 million households will be pushed into non-monetary poverty (Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, 2022). Beyond the national implications, the Sindh and Baluchistan province will also witness sharp increases above seven percent.

Right to Health

Flooding has had effects worldwide on an array of areas, including the health of those in the impacted areas. According to the World Health Organization the impact of flooding on the population's health can be a direct or indirect result of the floods.

Direct health effects refer to contact with flood waters, which can cause acute cardiovascular diseases, drowning, injuries from debris and submerged objects, falling into hidden manholes, building collapses, infections, chemical poisoning contamination, effects of overcrowding and longer-term mental health disorders (World Health Organization, 2014).

Indirect health effects refer to the damage to infrastructure, ecosystems, food and water supplies, which then affect people. The damage to these systems extends to subsequent damage, for example the damage to health care infrastructure creates a loss of access to essential care, failure to obtain healthcare. On the other hand, damage to water and sanitation infrastructure results in water contamination and a lack of sewage treatment plants which then creates a lack of clean water. Another example is the destruction of property and vital community facilities, damage to crops, and population displacement, all of which cause a disruption of food supplies, stress and effects of this which further affect health conditions (World Health Organization, 2014).

The data provided until September 2022 estimated that over 33 million people have been affected by the floods in Pakistan throughout 2022, particularly in the poorest and most vulnerable areas (United Nations, 2022). From this number, over 1730 people have lost their lives, and more than 8 million displaced people are facing a health crisis in the aftermath of the floods. Moreover, as most of the water systems were destroyed in the impacted areas it is estimated that 5.4 million people, including 2.5 million children, were left with no choice but to drink contaminated water from ponds and wells (United Nations, 2022).

The lack of access to clean water causes diseases such as cholera and diarrhea which then results in malnutrition as it prevents children from getting the nutrients they need. As a consequence, children's immune systems are weakened which increases the risk of contracting waterborne diseases and creates a vicious cycle (Unicef, n.d.). Furthermore, public health experts have expressed concern over waterborne and mosquito-borne diseases and infections as these are expected to rise (UNDP, 2022).

These concerns have been prevalent since previous floods dating back to 2010, when a lack of safe drinking water was directly linked to the rise in waterborne diseases including diarrhea, typhoid and cholera, and stagnant water causing high rates of malaria and dengue (Khan, 2018). Flooding events

5. Right to Education

The Importance of Education

Education is considered as one of the fundamental factors of development since it impacts tremendously the social, economic, and political trajectory of any country. An education system that is worthwhile can improve the life quality of people and lead to many benefits for society (Blackledge & Hunt, 2019). Education builds people's productivity and awareness and plays a substantial role in securing social and economic progress. Pakistan is a developing country with a stagnant economy and its constant political turbulence translates to a non-unified education system. The fact that the country faces so many adversities like poverty, terrorism, extreme acts in the name of religion and more, contributes to a chaotic scenery with little room for improvement (Idrees, & Khan, 2020). According to research, there is a high scale dropout number in the education system and factors such as lack of policy implementation regarding education, no facilities, lack of sufficient budget and a general lack of direction perpetuate an ineffective cycle when it comes to implementing an active education system (Faizi et al., 2020). Furthermore, in Pakistan half of the children from the age of five to the age of sixteen (this is equivalent to 23 million children) have not gone to school and 5.4 million have dropped out of them. This situation is continuing even though the country has a law which says that "education is free and compulsory" for all Pakistani citizens. One of the main reasons that children leave school behind is poverty (e.g., the family has a severely law income and their children must help them by offering a hand), and social factors (e.g., female education is considered a waste because they are destined to be mothers and wives only) (Faizi et al., 2020).

The Devastating Consequences of the Flood in Education

Moreover, in Pakistan, floods are a frequent and devastating phenomenon which makes access to education even more challenging. The education of children gets disrupted because school buildings are destroyed, families must move because it is not safe there anymore and do child labor to help their families in such a difficult period. Pakistan, because of its geographical location and climate change, is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world when it comes to natural disasters (floods, earthquakes, drought etc.) (Ahmed et al., 2022). In 2022, the country was again faced with a flood disaster with devastating consequences. According to UNICEF, schools have remained inaccessible for more than three million children in Pakistan because of the flood (nearly 27.000 school buildings were damaged or destroyed). The school buildings that survived the disaster are also inaccessible for educational purposes because they are used as shelters for people who lost their home. Schools being closed can lead to damaging consequences for the future of the children because the longer it takes for

schools to open the greater is the risk of children dropping out. As a domino effect, children who drop out are in bigger risk of being exploited and abused (e.g., child marriage and child labor). It should also be illustrated that this flood occurred after the schools were inaccessible for a long time because of COVID-19 which only widens the gap between Pakistani children and education (Ali et al., 2020). Prior to Covid and the flood three in four children did not know how to read by the age of 10 and it is calculated that the aftermath of the flood can cause more severe damage than the COVID one if the situation is not carefully remediated. This crisis should be a wake-up call, the education system in Pakistan needs to be rebuilt and this requires the implementation of smart interventions and an overall coordinated effort. Every child has the right to education, and it is devastating how often this right is violated, especially in developing countries like Pakistan (Idrees, & Khan, 2020).

Reconstruction Efforts

Policy makers and professionals have pinpointed how essential it is to take fast measures to regain the loss of learning that the flood cost. It is necessary to develop an education system that is resilient to natural disasters so the learning of the students will not be disrupted anymore. The Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE) in collaboration with Education Champion Network (ECN) reported on the necessity to take action on the post-floods' situation. In order to ensure continuity in learning, emergency schooling in provisional settlements has been placed, however, this effort needs substantial financing (Ahmed et al., 2022). Moreover, UNICEF has established around 500 temporary learning centres in the parts of the city that have been more affected and offered educational supplies to both students and teachers. Furthermore, UNICEF is training teachers on psychosocial care and health screenings and is preparing for back-to-school and enrolment activities for those schools that have been cleaned and rehabilitated. Nonetheless, six months after the catastrophic floods in Pakistan the situation remains gloomy as people still suffer from malnourishment and diseases. Considering the previous fact, someone might consider education a luxury, but that should not be the case since a continuous disruption in learning will rob young people of a better future. A lack of emergency preparedness and coordination, especially regarding social welfare, like education prevents the state from coming up with a substantial response (Rana et al., 2021).

To conclude, this disastrous flood has disrupted tremendously the learning experience for children. The provisional government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has established tents to create an educational environment for the students, however teachers have complained that there is a lack of space and basic facilities (Ahmed et al., 2022). For example, the NGO ''Sarhad Rural Support Program'' set up a tent in Lagan Khar village, but electricity, water and heating were unavailable; with conditions like these it is not possible for students to continue to learn. The official said the government would pay for the

necessary reconstructions from its own pockets but also rely on financial support from institutions such as the World Bank and UNICEF (Bhutta et al., 2022).

Recommendations

• Government of Pakistan should fund health and social protection systems, and other human rights measures, in order to protect people against impacts of climate change.

• Ensure that human rights are always central in all responses to the flood, and always involve in the decision-making process all the groups, especially those most affected, also accommodating the needs of those who have been historically marginalized and those who face intersecting forms of discrimination.

• G20 countries should refrain from stipulations in economic reform programmes and debt repayments that may compromise Pakistan's government capability to guarantee economic, social and cultural rights.

• Pakistan Government should ensure maximum transparency about future aid and loan agreements to guarantee an effective participation of all the people that may be potentially affected by reform measures

• Government should guarantee adequate responses in provide remedy for damage, also ensuring that those responses are inclusive, intersectional and gender-responsive

Conclusions

The unprecedented scale of the 2022 flooding had definitely put in light Pakistan's high vulnerability to climate change. International Human Rights Law in case of a natural disaster play a fundamental role because it holds governments accountable when they fail to reduce the risk of disaster, as well as to protect their citizen's human rights, nonetheless, there are no legally binding treaties on the link between human rights and natural disasters. 2022 floods have been catastrophic for Pakistan: it submerged one third of land area, displaced over eight million people and two million homes, 13,000 kilometres of highways, 439 bridges and more than four million acres of agricultural land was lost, generating nine million people at the risk of poverty. As stated by World Bank, in Pakistan floods total damages are estimated to exceed $14.9 billion, total economic losses $15.2 billion and $16.3 billion estimated for rehabilitation and reconstruction. Floods, moreover, made access to education even more challenging: schools according to UNICEF have remained inaccessible for more than three million children, 27.000 schools building were destroyed and the ones remained intact were used as shelters for people who lost their home and thus inaccessible. Schools being closed increase the risk of children dropping out, which make them more vulnerable to being exploited and abused (e.g., child marriage and child labor). In order to identify a strategy to develop a Resilient, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework, Pakistan Government jointly with World Bank, ASB, EU and UN conducted a Post Disaster Needs Assessment, whose priorities are: agriculture revival, housing rebuilding and public infrastructure reconstruction.

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