

Climate-Induced Disasters in Pakistan and Rights of Climate Victims under International Law: An Overview from 2020-25

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Abstract



Climate-induced disasters have evolved from discontinuous natural risks into determined and widespread crises that destabilize human and national security. Climate has been changing rapidly due to vast industrialization and technological advancements worldwide. The study explores how the episodes of disasters influence international humanitarian aid policies, as well as the protection of climate disasters and victims under international law. Using a qualitative research methodology based on secondary sources, the study analyses the adequacy of existing legal and humanitarian frameworks in terms of climate-related emergency response. The key objectives of the research are to emphasize the significance of climate-induced disasters in Pakistan, to explore the rights of climate victims under international law, and to contemplate the applicability of international law in the case of Pakistan under climate disaster. Securitization theory is used to explain climate change and disasters in Pakistan and justify the rights of climate victims. The study concludes that Pakistan's climate-induced disasters have exposed severe flaws in typical humanitarian response systems as their extent grows larger. Multiple aids from friendly countries and developing states are enough for rapid emergency response instead of long-term recovery approaches, which exposes communities to endless recurring disasters, although international humanitarian aid mechanisms have been evacuating in scale to address climate disasters.

Keywords: Climate Change, Disaster management, Natural disasters, Policy Making

Introduction

Climate change has evolved from an environmental concern into a multidimensional crisis with profound humanitarian, socio-economic, and legal implications, particularly for climate-vulnerable states such as Pakistan. Building on this premise, climate-induced disasters in Pakistan between 2020 and 2025, specifically floods, droughts, heatwaves, cloudbursts, and slow-onset coastal impacts, and their consequences for human security, displacement, and development, are examined. A point of concern is the argument that “Climate victims have been increasing with the increase in climate-induced disasters in the globe. Pakistan has been facing multiple challenges due to climate disasters. However, certain rights of climate victims are enclosed in international law by the consensus of the international community.”

Pakistan is located in South Asia, which is a hotspot for climate-related disasters, with multiple geographical limitations and socioeconomic risks (Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, 2021). According to the Global Climate Risk Index by Germanwatch, Pakistan is the fifth biggest country highly impacted by climate change (Germanwatch). Therefore, widespread displacement and massive economic losses have been witnessed from time to time (Ahmed & Mahfuz, 2014). Climate-induced disasters in Pakistan highlight the rights of climate victims under international law and contemplate the applicability of international law in the case of Pakistan in the context of climate disaster.

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This study follows a qualitative research methodology, with a discourse and analytical approach, to study the issues of climate-induced disasters in Pakistan and the rights of climate victims under international law. The research draws mostly from the analysis of open sources. In addition, secondary sources, comprising the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), World Bank post-disaster needs assessments, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) situation reports, and peer-reviewed academic literature, are used to evaluate the empirical context of climate-induced disasters in Pakistan during the period 2020–2025. Data and legal materials are studied using content analysis and normative assessment to test the obligations of states, policy responses, and gaps in protections.

The research is comprised of seven parts: i) Introduction and Securitization Theory as the theoretical framework, ii) Impact of Climate-Induced Disasters in Pakistan, iii) Floods in Pakistan, iv) Climate Victims' Rights under International Law, v) Humanitarian Rights of Pakistan and International Assistance, vi) Humanitarian Assistance given by Pakistan to Other Countries, and vii) Conclusion and Recommendations.

Securitization Theory as Conceptual Underpinning

Securitization theory was introduced by the Copenhagen School of International Relations, primarily through the works of Barry Buzan, Ole Wæver, and Jaap de Wilde. Securitization Theory is the idea that a security threat is not an inherent quality of an issue, but rather the outcome of a “securitizing move,” a speech act or political gesture made by a securitizing actor who identifies a particular phenomenon as an existential threat to a valued referent object. If this claim is accepted by a relevant audience, such as the public, political elites, or international bodies, then the issue becomes securitized, meaning that it is no longer treated as part of normal political processes but as a matter requiring urgent, exceptional, and often extraordinary measures.

Key securitizing actors in this discourse include national governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and media outlets. These actors utilize policy documents, climate reports, summit declarations, emergency speeches, and media coverage to portray climate-related disasters not merely as environmental concerns but as imminent threats to international peace and humanitarian well-being. The audience, comprising donor countries, humanitarian agencies, international institutions, and domestic publics, often legitimizes these securitizing moves by supporting large-scale aid interventions, reallocating development funds for emergency relief, and advocating for international climate financing mechanisms. The process of securitization leads to extraordinary policy measures, which may include emergency humanitarian aid, fast-tracked climate adaptation funding, debt relief, military-led disaster response missions, and the establishment of international frameworks such as the Green Climate Fund or Loss and Damage Fund under the UNFCCC.

However, while securitization can generate political urgency and resource mobilization, it also brings normative and political implications. First, the framing of climate change as a security threat can lead to militarized responses, where defense institutions take the lead in disaster management, leaving less room for civilian and local governance structures. Second, securitization risks depoliticizing the underlying causes of vulnerability, such as poverty, inequality, corruption, and weak state capacity, by treating climate disasters as isolated events rather than outcomes of systemic failure. Third, securitization is often selective, with certain crises gaining international attention and aid due to geopolitical interests, while others are overlooked despite their severity.

Impact of Climate Induced Disasters in Pakistan

Climate-induced disasters are automatically accompanied by large-scale population movements provoked by the need to migrate within and across countries in search of safety, resources, and livelihoods. Such internal migration poses complex challenges of settlement, especially in urban and semi-urban areas, subjecting infrastructure, housing, health services, sanitation systems, and local government capacity to huge strain. A noted case in point is the 2010 floods in Pakistan, where millions of people displaced from rural areas affected by floods migrated to urban centers like Karachi and Hyderabad, increasing the difficulties of informal settlements and putting pressure on already crumbling urban infrastructure (World Bank & Asian Development Bank, 2010). Similarly, the 2022 floods displaced over eight million people, with many among them forced to live in temporary camps and with host communities across Sindh and Balochistan (World Bank & Government of Pakistan,

2022), with extensive damages to housing, agriculture, and other public infrastructure estimated to be more than US\$ 30 billion (~2.1 trillion local currency; UN OCHA, 2022).

In a few cases, areas such as Balochistan and Sindh have temporary asylum and relocation schemes. International law acknowledges and regulates such obligations through conventions, protocols, and customs that provide a framework for protecting populations affected by displacement, ensuring the distribution of aid, and supporting states overwhelmed by climate-induced migration. This legal recognition highlights the importance of responsibility-sharing, which strengthens the ethical and legal case for global cooperation in addressing climate-driven human movement.

Affected areas are often at risk of serious development reversals, as recurrent climate disasters affect agricultural production, industrial processes, transportation infrastructure, and other public services, and impede opportunities for long-term economic growth and social stability. These disruptions perpetuate cycles of poverty and vulnerability, especially in rural and climate-sensitive regions. Intensifying this challenge is the inequity of structures, as developing and third-world countries are not the cause of the global greenhouse gas imbalance and are disproportionately affected by the social, economic, and environmental costs of climate change (IPCC, 2021). In recognition of these inequities at a global level, state actors, international organizations, and humanitarian agencies provide aid through financial support, emergency relief efforts, capacity-building initiatives, and technical cooperation to support affected populations and disaster-stricken states.

In some extreme circumstances, such as in the wake of the 2022 Pakistan floods, international assistance included more than emergency relief, but also temporary arrangements for relocation, cross-border humanitarian coordination, and long-term recovery planning coordinated by the United Nations, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and other international partners (UN OCHA, 2022). International law recognizes and regulates such obligations through a mixture of conventions, soft-law instruments, and customary norms, consequently establishing frameworks for protecting displaced populations, ensuring equitable distribution of humanitarian aid, and supporting states overrun by climate-induced disasters and displacement. In instruments such as the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998), dealing with internal displacement, international human rights treaty documents note the importance of commitment to the protection of human dignity and the principle of responsibility-sharing between states.

This legal recognition reflects the ethical and legal imperative of international cooperation in addressing climate-induced human mobility and humanitarian crises. It strengthens the understanding that climate-induced disasters are not isolated domestic issues but forms of transnational challenges that simultaneously involve the implementation of human rights law, humanitarian law, and climate change law.

Floods

One of the worst climate-related catastrophes in South Asia's recent history, the floods in Pakistan in 2022 had a significant impact on Pakistan's climate diplomacy, foreign aid plans, and domestic reactions. The floods had a big impact on Pakistan's climate diplomacy since they highlighted the nation's vulnerability despite its little contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. Pakistan stepped up efforts for a specific climate financing facility to aid victims of climate-related calamities at international gatherings like COP26 and other climate summits. The catastrophe strengthened Pakistan's position on climate justice by highlighting the unequal cost placed on developing nations and the pressing need for more money for adaptation (Wyns, 2022).

From the year 2020 onwards, a series of major flood disasters came sequentially, in different scales and sizes, in Pakistan. In 2020, large floods affected several provinces, causing destruction and widespread losses of tens of thousands of homes, damaging crops and livestock, and disrupting connectivity, roads, and services, with increased displacement and public health concerns in many low-lying districts. In 2021, another wave of severe flooding caused catastrophic impacts on both urban and rural areas, resulting in dozens of fatalities, destruction of houses and infrastructure, displacement of thousands of families, and huge damage to agriculture and local economies (Aslam, 2021). The crisis reached an unprecedented height in 2022, when devastating floods submerged nearly a third of the country, impacting nearly 33 million people, killing over 1,600 to 1,700 people, and destroying or damaging around 1.7 million houses, roadways, bridges, and water infrastructure, alongside extensive destruction of roads, bridges, schools, and hospitals, with total economic losses

exceeding US\$ 30 billion, along with the displacement of millions of people for months in hard-hit areas like Sindh and Balochistan.

In 2023, despite a smaller-scale event than in 2022, Pakistan was again gripped by serious flooding in the northern and western parts of the country, especially Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan, where flash floods and landslides resulted in the deaths of dozens of people, washed away homes and transport links, and caused displacement of local communities that were still struggling with the effects of previous disasters. In 2024, more significant episodes of flooding were reported in several regions, again resulting in loss of life, damage to housing, roads, and public facilities, and repeated displacement of vulnerable populations, which deepened the long-term social and economic losses. With the continued occurrence of large flood events in flood-prone and mountainous areas, by 2025 the pattern of recurring disaster had intensified, with ongoing destruction of property, infrastructure, and livelihoods, demonstrating how floods had become a persistent and cumulative crisis and no longer merely isolated emergencies.

Monsoon Patterns

In 2020, Pakistan witnessed heavy floods caused by the monsoon in Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan. According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), excessive rainfall and urban flooding resulted in more than 400 deaths and impacted more than 5 million people, with major damage done to housing, agriculture, and infrastructure (NDMA, 2020). Karachi suffered urban flooding unprecedented to this degree due to heavy downpours mixed with blocked drainage systems, paralyzing electricity, water, and emergency services. From the perspective of law and human rights, the floods of 2020 drew attention to the problems of urban climate vulnerability and revealed shortcomings in disaster preparedness, especially in megacities.

Drought and Water Scarcity (2020–2023)

In the years 2020–2023, Pakistan experienced prolonged drought conditions, especially in Sindh and Balochistan. According to FAO assessments, “water scarcity and lower rainfall levels had a major impact on agricultural production and livestock, causing millions worldwide to be more food insecure” (FAO, 2021). Rural livelihoods declined, and internal migration to urban centers further increased. Drought impacts during this period highlighted the “slow-onset” dimension of climate change, which often does not attract the same level of immediate humanitarian attention despite having long-term consequences.

Heatwaves and Extreme Temperatures

Pakistan suffered extreme heat conditions in 2022, which touched nearly 50 degrees Celsius in parts of the province of Sindh. According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), such heatwaves have been some of the most severe recorded and resulted in heat-related illnesses, water shortages, and power outages (PMD, 2022). Heatwaves disproportionately affected vulnerable populations, including elderly persons, outdoor laborers, and low-income communities, raising concerns under international human rights law, namely the right to life and health.

In May 2024, the PMD recorded a temperature of 52.5 degrees Celsius in Mohenjo-Daro, which was one of the highest temperatures ever recorded in Pakistan (PMD, 2024). Similar extreme heat weather persisted through 2025, worsening public health threats and agricultural stress. These heat events are an example of how predictable seasonal temperatures are transformed into crises that threaten human life in many ways and reinforce the obligation of transnational societies to implement heat action plans, early warning systems, and public health safeguards in line with international human rights standards.

Cloudbursts

Cloudbursts and short-duration rainfall events of heavy intensity have become more frequent in northern Pakistan. In 2025, cloudburst-induced flash floods occurred in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and caused several deaths, including tourists, as well as damage to roads and infrastructure (Reuters, 2025). Using relevant examples of observed disasters, these incidents contribute to an awareness of the growing threat that sudden-onset climate hazards pose, as well as the need for proper early warning systems, evacuation strategies, and disaster governance.

Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Impacts

During the period 2020–2025, coastal communities in Sindh, especially in the Indus Delta, experienced increasing saline intrusion and coastal erosion, together with the degradation of mangrove ecosystems. Government and academic studies show that these slow-onset climate impacts

have led to a decrease in agricultural yield, contamination of freshwater sources, and disruption of the livelihoods of small fishing communities.

Climate Victims’ Rights under International Law

At the heart of the rights of climate victims is the fact that climate change turns environmental damage into human rights violations insofar as it impairs the enjoyment of basic rights. International human rights bodies are also taking note of the fact that climate change and climate change-related disasters are direct and foreseeable threats to human life, health, dignity, and livelihoods.

Legally, drought conditions directly involve the human right to water and sanitation, which was recognized by the UN General Assembly in 2010, as well as the rights to food and health under the ICESCR.

Under the principles of international disaster law, and in particular based on the ILC Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters, states have an obligation to apply reasonable and appropriate measures to prevent foreseeable injury through reasonable means.

Right	Law	Year	Clause/ Article	Statement
Right to Life and Human Dignity	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)	1966	Article 6	States must protect individuals from foreseeable climate and environmental risks. They must implement disaster preparedness, early warning systems, and climate adaptation measures. Failure to prevent avoidable climate-related deaths may result in state responsibility under international law.
Right to Health	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)	1966	Article 12	States must ensure access to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including emergency medical services, disease prevention, safe drinking water, and protection of healthcare infrastructure during climate disasters.
Right to water and sanitation	UN General Assembly Resolution on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation	2010	Resolution 64/292	States must guarantee access to safe, accessible, acceptable, and affordable drinking water and sanitation services, especially during climate emergencies. Denial of these services may constitute a serious human rights violation.
Right to Adequate Housing and Standard of living	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)	1966	Article 11	States must guarantee access to safe, accessible, acceptable, and affordable drinking water and sanitation services, especially during climate emergencies. Denial of these services may constitute a serious human rights violation.
Protection against Discrimination & Special Protection of Vulnerable Groups	International Human Rights Law Principles (including ICCPR and ICESCR)	1966	General Non-Discrimination Obligations	States must ensure equal access to humanitarian aid and disaster relief without discrimination. Special protective measures must be adopted for vulnerable groups such as women, children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous communities, and low-income populations.
Rights of the Climate-Induced Displaced Persons	UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement	1998	Guiding Principles Framework	Climate-displaced persons retain all human rights protections. States must prevent arbitrary displacement and ensure humanitarian assistance, protection, and durable solutions, including voluntary return, resettlement, or local integration.

Right to a Healthy Sustainable Environment	UN Human Rights Council (HRC), 2021 UN General Assembly (UNGA), 2022 UN Resolution 76/300 (2000)	Recognize environmental protection as linked to human rights. Strengthens legal foundations for climate victims to claim protection where environmental degradation threatens human dignity, health, and well-being.
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Humanitarian Rights of Pakistan and International Assistance

Between 2020 and 2025, recurring and growing humanitarian needs in Pakistan from climate-induced disasters, particularly floods, extreme rainfall, heatwaves, and associated displacement, developed. These needs were most acute in flood-prone provinces, namely Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and parts of Punjab, and consistently involved issues of emergency shelter, food security, safe drinking water and sanitation, health services, and protection for displaced populations. Flooding repeatedly damaged homes, polluted drinking water, and affected agriculture, while fragile health and municipal systems were overwhelmed, and millions of people required immediate and sustained attention.

In 2020, intense monsoon rains triggered massive flooding and urban submergence, particularly in the province of Sindh and Karachi. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), flood-affected communities needed urgent shelter assistance, food assistance, and water and sanitation services due to damage to housing and contamination of water supplies. The response by the international humanitarian community during this period was coordinated through the UN system, and official UN Financial Tracking Service (FTS) data indicate that US\$159.5 million in humanitarian funding was reported for Pakistan in 2020 (UN OCHA FTS, 2020). This assistance was delivered through UN agencies and humanitarian partners in accordance with established humanitarian principles (i.e., impartiality and needs-based targeting).

Humanitarian requirements were sustained in 2021 as communities remained vulnerable to climatic shocks and recovery from past disasters was incomplete. FTS records show that the estimated amount of reported humanitarian funding to Pakistan in 2021 was US\$396 million, reflecting continued international support for addressing food insecurity, health needs, and disaster-related vulnerabilities of the population (UN OCHA FTS, 2021). While not all assistance in 2021 was linked to a single large-scale flood event, the funding demonstrates the ongoing reliance on international humanitarian mechanisms to support populations affected by climate-related and environmental risks.

The acute humanitarian crisis of the 2020–2025 period emerged during the monsoon floods of 2022, which were described by international institutions as unprecedented in scale. Official assessments indicated that 33 million people were affected, 20.6 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance, and 8–9 million people were internally displaced at various stages of the emergency (UN OCHA 2022; Government of Pakistan & World Bank 2022). Flood-affected populations faced severe shortages in shelter, food, clean water, sanitation facilities, and health care, while extensive agricultural land was destroyed, threatening livelihoods and food security.

To respond to these needs, the United Nations launched the Pakistan 2022 Floods Response Plan, appealing for US\$816 million to assist 9.5 million of the most vulnerable people with life-saving humanitarian assistance (UN OCHA, 2022). According to OCHA situation reports, the response plan was approximately 65.8% funded by mid-2023, reflecting significant but incomplete international financial support (UN OCHA, 2023). In addition, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) provided rapid emergency financing; CERF records indicate that US\$10.07 million was allocated in 2022 to UN agencies working in Pakistan on flood response, targeting health, food security, nutrition, and water and sanitation services (CERF, 2022). Parallel to the UN system, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) launched an international emergency appeal for the monsoon floods in Pakistan to support the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in providing shelter, cash assistance, and essential household items (IFRC, 2022).

Following the devastating 2022 floods, humanitarian needs continued into 2023 as communities faced ongoing displacement, damaged infrastructure, and loss of livelihoods. OCHA monsoon updates and situation reports for 2023 indicate that assistance under the flood response framework continued, with millions of people receiving support in food, shelter, and water and sanitation sectors (UN OCHA, 2023). This demonstrates that climate disasters in Pakistan are not short-term emergencies but generate long-lasting humanitarian needs requiring sustained international engagement.

In 2024, heavy monsoon rains again led to floods and fatalities in several regions. More than 180 fatalities and injuries, as well as damage to homes, schools, and bridges, were reported. OCHA monsoon 2024 flash updates indicated renewed humanitarian needs for shelter, health care, and clean water (UN OCHA, 2024). The UN system responded by strengthening preparedness and contingency planning, including prepositioning supplies and coordination with national authorities, drawing lessons from the 2022 disaster.

In 2025, humanitarian action was once again triggered by flooding. The United Nations in Pakistan confirmed that the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator allocated US\$5 million from CERF to support government-led flood response efforts and address the most acute needs of flood-affected families (UN Pakistan, 2025). National and UN reports for 2025 continued to highlight needs related to shelter, food assistance, health services, and care for displaced persons (NDMA, 2025; UN OCHA, 2025).

During the period 2020–2025, aid received by Pakistan from the international community was delivered through recognized international frameworks for humanitarian assistance rather than ad hoc or informal mechanisms. UN-coordinated response plans, CERF allocations, and officially tracked funding flows by the IFRC reflect the practical implementation of international norms governing humanitarian assistance. These frameworks are grounded in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/182 on the Coordination of Humanitarian Emergency Assistance (1991), alongside general principles of international cooperation in disaster situations as reflected in international practice and codification efforts. While the assistance received was not sufficient to meet all needs of affected populations, it demonstrates how international law and global humanitarian systems operationalize responsibility-sharing in the context of climate-induced disasters that overwhelm national capacity.

Humanitarian Assistance given by Pakistan to other Countries

Although Pakistan is itself highly vulnerable to climate change and regularly receives international assistance for disasters such as floods and heatwaves, it has also been active in providing humanitarian assistance abroad through institutions such as the Prime Minister’s Office, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the Pakistan Navy, Rescue 1122, the Pakistan Army, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This reflects Pakistan’s commitment to enhancing global humanitarian solidarity and the prevailing norms of the international community in responding to international disasters and emergencies in general.

Under the UN system, states often provide assistance to each other in times of emergency, whether due to natural disasters, armed conflict, or climate-related crises, through the deployment of rescue teams, the transport of relief goods, or financial assistance. Such support is generally provided on a voluntary basis but in accordance with humanitarian law norms. In these cases, Pakistan’s assistance has been provided in consultation with affected governments and humanitarian partners, based on the principles of sovereignty, consent, and solidarity in humanitarian action.

Despite significant humanitarian needs within Pakistan in the face of climate vulnerability, the country continues to contribute to the international humanitarian response. This includes support in high-impact emergencies such as assistance to earthquake-affected areas and humanitarian support to Ukraine in 2022, which highlights Pakistan’s active role in the international humanitarian system under the concept of mutual assistance.

Table 1: Pakistan's Contribution to Humanitarian Action in the World

Year	Event	Assisted Country	Types of Crisis and Disasters	Assistance Provided by Pakistan
2023	Earthquake	Turkey & Syria	Major Earthquake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Search and rescue team 1122 consist of 51 members ● Pakistan Army teams ● Provided relief goods including winterized tents, blankets, and other essentials (PNS Nasr carrying 1,000 tons of relief goods). ● Rs10 billion relief fund. ● Financial assistance through

					Pakistan Red Crescent Society (US\$50,000 to Turkey and US\$25,000 to Syria).
2023	Flood	Libya	Flood Disaster caused by Daniel		Provide goods including medical supplies, tents and emergency assistance packages
2023	Morocco	Earthquake	Major Disaster	Earthquake	Provided including emergency supplies and financial contributions

Conclusion

Climate-induced disasters have become among the most important humanitarian and legal challenges for the people of Pakistan and the South Asian region in general. Rising temperatures, erratic monsoon patterns, melting glaciers in the Himalayas, and a rise in sea level have exacerbated the frequency and severity of disasters. Simultaneously, structural vulnerabilities associated with population density, poverty, weak infrastructure, and governance constraints have been exposed. The years 2020 to 2025 have proven the persistence of climate disasters in Pakistan, as they are no longer isolated emergencies but recurring crises with long-term social, economic, and human rights consequences.

The findings of the research indicate that policies in international humanitarian aid are slowly moving away from a reactive approach to disaster response toward a more proactive, justice-oriented, and sustainability-focused approach. Mechanisms such as anticipatory financing, loss and damage frameworks, localization of aid, and investments in climate-resilient infrastructure are evidence of a new understanding that climate-related damage is an issue for which the world has to be collectively responsible. At the same time, the research shows that there are persistent challenges such as unequal distribution of aid, lack of coordination, lack of political stability, donor fatigue, and limited integration of humanitarian aid with long-term climate adaptation strategies.

From a legal point of view, the study shows that even though there is a lack of a formally established international legal category of “climate victim,” human rights law, disaster law, and environmental law offer significant protection to individuals and communities affected by climate-induced disasters. Rights to life, health, water, housing, dignity, non-discrimination, and a healthy environment set clear obligations on states to prevent foreseeable harm, ensure effective disaster response capacity, and provide sustainable solutions for displaced populations. Pakistan’s own experience also shows the importance of international cooperation and responsibility-sharing, both as a recipient of humanitarian aid and as a contributor to humanitarian efforts on the international stage.

Ultimately, addressing the humanitarian consequences of climate change in Pakistan and South Asia will require stronger regional cooperation, particularly through institutions such as SAARC, improved governance and transparency, and legally grounded, rights-based humanitarian responses. Without sustained international commitment and integrated climate and humanitarian strategies, climate-driven risks will continue to hinder development, deepen human insecurity, and threaten food security in vulnerable regions.

Recommendations

- 1. Improve early warning systems.**
In an effort to reduce the loss of life and property in Pakistan during floods, heatwaves, droughts, and cloudbursts, the early warning system's capabilities must be substantially improved and increased.
- 2. Develop infrastructure to endure the effects of climate change**
To reduce long-term vulnerabilities from extreme weather events, more resilient housings, roads, drainage systems, medical facilities, and other services must be constructed.
- 3. Boost local capacity building and readiness for disasters**
Training, resources, and coordination mechanisms should be used to significantly increase the capabilities of local governments and organizations like NDMA and provincial disaster administrations.
- 4. Promote climate change mitigation and adaptation measures**
Pakistan should concentrate more on long-term climate change adaption strategies such urban climate planning, climate-smart agricultural, and water resource management.

5. **Improve the humanitarian response's coordination**
To increase the speed, effectiveness, and overlap of disaster response, national institutions, international organizations, and non-governmental groups must better coordinate.
6. **Make that humanitarian aid is distributed fairly and promptly**
To provide humanitarian aid to everyone affected without discrimination, vulnerable populations and isolated regions should receive particular attention.
7. **Strengthen regional and national cooperation.**
With the goal to stress shared responsibility and actions addressing climate concerns, Pakistan should actively participate in regional forums like SAARC and worldwide forums on climate issues.
8. **Integrate human rights with climate governance**
A more comprehensive human rights approach to climate legislation and disaster relief must be based on the impacted communities' fundamental rights to life, dignity, health, and livelihood.

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