



CHANGING WITH
**CLIMATE
CHANGE**



VOCAL
Save Nature for Future

C-CUBE

CHANGING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE



© KASHIF RUSTAMANI
Winner photography competition

Islamic Relief's Effort Towards a Climate Resilient Pakistan

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Dear Readers,

We are delighted to bring you this quarter's newsletter. We are overwhelmed by the response and encouragements received by Islamic Relief offices worldwide, and from government and civil society members in Pakistan. If you missed the first edition of C-Cube, you can [read it here](#).

Through our community specific sessions and consultations we have derived very strong evidence that tailor-made interventions, for specific communities and stakeholders, are crucial to disseminate climate change knowledge and awareness of environmental challenges, compared to the one size fits all approach to climate change awareness that is currently being implemented nationwide.

The VOCAL team is committed to making this campaign a great success. Islamic Relief Pakistan continues to cross over the usual parameters of climate change activism and is venturing into territories never explored before; bringing key, and all stakeholders previously ignored, under one uniform understanding of climate change.

Our engagements with various stakeholders have been extremely successful and we are seeing more multi-partner engagements in the near future. Many thanks to our partner universities, and government departments for their confidence in us, and offering their full support as we embark on ambitious climate resilience programming.

We hope that this campaign will be a stepping stone that will lead our society towards mass sensitization and understanding of climate change within communities, not reached before, and will lead to policy approaches that are geography specific.

We look forward to your support and partnerships to ensure that this initiative is an accomplishment for us all.

Regards,

Islamic Relief Pakistan

VOCAL Campaign

Voices Organized for Climate Advocacy and Lobbying is a nation-wide campaign designed to bring on board all civil society members to engage and help influence a more climate responsive governance. The campaign is successfully being executed all over Pakistan through civil society engagements. The aim is not only to build their knowledge base on their constitutional obligations, but also to provide a platform for dialogue on strengthening climate sensitive policy frameworks for effective planning and efficient budgeting that will lead to an improved functioning of local governments.

Islamic Relief realizes the urgency of identifying, and bringing, all key stakeholders to talk about, and address climate change. Therefore, IR has prioritized climate change adaptation as a strategic focus area in its global and national strategy 2017-2021 and also launched "The Islamic Climate Change Declaration Toolkit" to mobilize communities ahead of COP21.

The campaign kicked off with the nation-wide baseline study with the aim to provide a comprehensive review and analysis of the prevailing regulatory framework in Pakistan that addresses climate change mitigation and adaptation. The baseline identifies sector specific inconsistencies and policy gaps in the existing planning and implementation strategies as well as budgetary allocations and utilization.



EVIDENCE BASED ADVOCACY

Within the framework of the VOCAL campaign, it was essential to conduct a National Baseline Survey in the target sectors to provide detailed information and data on the situation of climate change and its level of awareness and sensitization among the institutions in-charge of mitigating climate change in Pakistan.

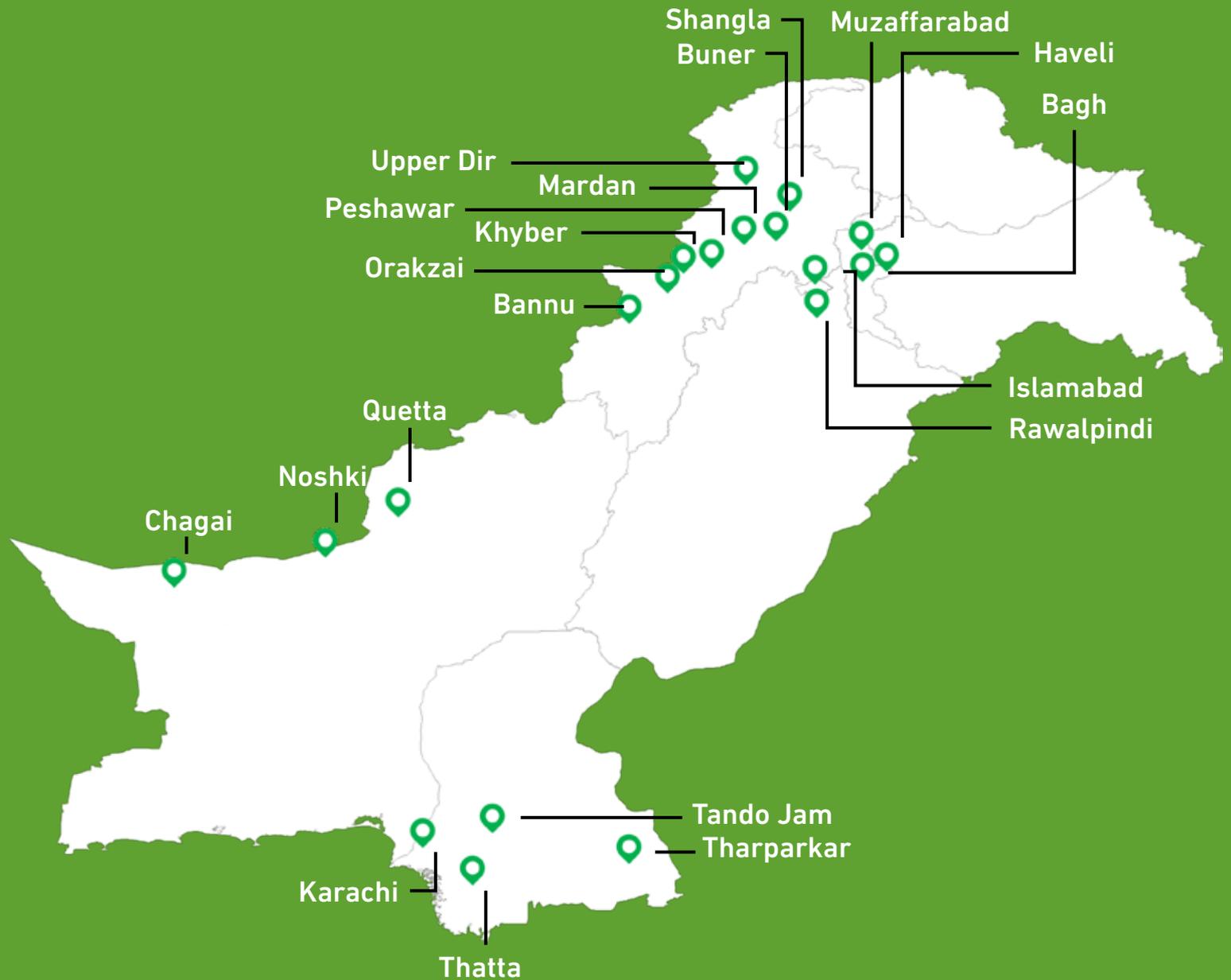
For the study, 92 persons were interviewed from across the country. The respondents belonged from different stakeholder groups - government, NGOs, research institutes, academic sectors, and media. The baseline report identified multiple gaps that starts with challenges with the Climate Change Policy-Making Process, the Financial Mechanism for Climate Change Policy Implementation, Financial Allocations for Climate Change Research and Projects, Institutional Arrangements for

Climate Change Adaptation to the identification of local realities against global climate discourse.

One of the key findings of the baseline study was incoherence between district, provincial, and national climate change policies and planning, and this is one of the major gap that our campaign is aiming to fill in the policy and institutional arena.

The collected information and data of the Baseline Survey was used as input for further designing interventions and project activities of the campaign. Shedding light on all the gaps identified, the campaign is aimed to connect the missing pieces and build partnerships to overcome them. Further details of the study and the results can be found on the page 11.

VOCAL OUTREACH





MARCHING FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE



AJK: March with the students of University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Muzaffarabad



Balochistan: March with the students of Sardar Bahadur Khan Womens University, and Press Club Quetta



KP: March with the students of University of Peshawar, Abdul wali khan University Mardan and press club Peshawar



Engagement with Stakeholders



Islamic Relief Pakistan, as part of a joint collaboration under PHF, participated in the organization of a conference on 'Climate Resilience – Role of Civil Society and Organization'. The conference brought together multiple stakeholders, government officials, academia and representatives of vulnerable communities to share their knowledge and existing work related to climate change.



Islamic Relief Representatives met with the Minister of Climate Change, Ms. Zartaj Gul Wazir, to discuss the ways in which IRP and MoCC can join hands to fight Climate Change.



Mr. Sarmad Iqbal, Advocacy and Campaign Specialist, IRP talked about the challenges of climate change in Pakistan and the work that IRP is undertaking to combat those challenges, at the World Humanitarian Action Forum (WHAF), in Turkey (2019)



The Case of Climate: An awareness raising session was conducted with the lawyers from the District Courts of Islamabad, to sensitize them about the climate challenges and to encourage them to take up environment related cases.



EPA Balochistan, University of Balochistan, SBK Women's University, BUITEMS, Islamic Relief Pakistan joined hands to sensitize & spread awareness among the youth on impacts of Environmental Degradation and Climate Change



Water Task Force lead by government has been formed under PHED department Balochistan, IRP facilitated the formation and strengthening of this forum. A Pre Water Task Force consultation meeting took place to jot down the water issues and plan for long term interventions.



Islamic Relief Representatives met with Mr. Idrees Mesud ,Member Disaster Risk Reduction, National Disaster Management Authority to discuss collaborative avenues to collectively combat the challenges of climate change



Islamic Relief Representatives met with Members of the Environmental parliamentary Committee of the KP Provincial Assembly for a Round table discussion on challenges in the province.



Community Engagements



A Climate change awareness raising session was organized by Islamic Relief Pakistan with faith leaders in Sindh. Religious scholars were urged to communicate the message and awareness around climate change as taken from religious scriptures to be disseminated to local communities.



Islamic Relief Pakistan organized a Dengue Awareness Campaign in Muzaffarabad



District Level Climate Change Awareness Session, Bagh, AJK



Engagements with the lawyers community is of utmost importance to Islamic Relief as they have a crucial role to play in mainstreaming climate change and environmental policies and their strict implementation



ENGAGEMENT WITH MEDIA



Islamic Relief Pakistan organized a workshop on Environmental Journalism in Quetta, that was attended by Journalists from all over Pakistan.



A group of journalists from all over Pakistan were taken to the most drought stricken regions of Balochistan to raise their awareness about the challenges of climate change in the province.



Mr. Sarmad Iqbal, Advocacy and Campaign Specialist, IRP was invited to speak on a TV show, on the challenges that Climate Change is imposing on Pakistan



Representatives of Islamic Relief Pakistan participated in a Radio awareness program in Mardan on Climate Change Impacts in Pakistan and the counter measures required.



Mr. Sarmad Iqbal, Advocacy and Campaign Specialist, IRP and Mr. Nadeem Sarwar from Eyedias Media House spoke on the National Pakistan TV Show and presented their first-hand findings of the impacts of climate change that they witnessed in the drought stricken regions of Balochistan province.

NATIONAL DROUGHT CONSULTATION



A National Consultation was jointly organized by Islamic Relief Pakistan (IRP) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Framework for addressing the impacts of Droughts in Balochistan. Approx 177 participants from Federal government and Provincial line departments, Academia, lawyer's community, and civil society were present at the consultation who brought their expertise and experience around the table and engaged in fruitful, constructive and open exchanges throughout the day.

US VS Climate Change

Islamic Relief Pakistan held a nationwide photography and videography competition on 'Climate Change impacts and Adaptation'. The idea of the competition was to innovatively engage youth to raise awareness among their communities, to understand and recognise how their constituency is being effected by the climate change and what research based and indigenous solutions can be adopted.



1st Prize Photography:

Kashif Rustamani, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad



2nd Prize Photography:

Saifullah Khoso, University of Sindh, Jamshoro



1st Prize Videography:

Muhammad Waseem, Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan



2nd Prize Videography:

Syed Najam-ul-Hassan, Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad



Innovation Prize:

Nasar Alam, Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences



ENGAGEMENT WITH ACADEMIA



Islamic Relief Pakistan organized a one Day Symposium on 'Recent trends in Environment of Balochistan' at Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences



Islamic Relief Pakistan participated in a Seminar & Panel discussion on 'Climate change impacts and Sectoral adaptation practices in Pakistan' at Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan



Sarmad Iqbal, Advocacy and Campaigns Specialist IRP gave a session on the 'Art of Advocacy' and the role advocacy plays in climate change mitigation efforts, at Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology, Islamabad.



A poster competition was held at Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, where students highlighting the impacts of climate change on the environment and human being



MOU signing and an inception seminar was held at the Karachi University, where the youth was made aware of their important role in combatting climate change.



A month long series of activities were organized by Islamic Relief staff in Upper Dir, KP around the theme of National HandWashing Day, with the objective of raising awareness on hygiene.



BASELINE FINDINGS:

A thorough study of the existing policies and plans around climate change mitigation and adaptation and the protection of environment, identifies several gaps and challenges that act as barriers in mainstreaming climate sensitive development in true practice. Based on the policy analysis and results of stakeholder interviews, following inconsistencies recorded within the climate change policies and other sectors, groups, administrative levels and geographic areas:

- Climate change concerns are long term where impacts extend by decades, whereas the existing planning cycles of the government are short term (around 5 years' time) and creates challenges for climate policy implementation.
- Climate change is a cross cutting theme and affects a wide range of sectors, groups and geographic areas in a different way. However, the policy making at provincial and federal levels continues to be practiced in silos.
- After the 18th Constitutional Amendment, there still remains confusion and lack of understanding about legal and administrative regulations, responsibilities and powers that were devolved to provinces. Policy making has become more challenging in the provinces due to limited role of the federal government for being involved in provincial policy matters.
- The immediate and urgent issues have been the priorities of the last governments (e.g. terrorism, disasters, energy shortfalls, low economic growth) which consume most of the financial allocations. Consequently, there is lack of financial resources to address climate change concerns, which are treated as long term issues and secondary in political priorities of successive governments.
- Climate change policy ownership at the provincial levels is very low due to conflicting /overlapping responsibilities, priorities and policy objectives among the provinces and federal government agencies.
- Despite major economic threats from climatic change to the Pakistani economy, and the agriculture sector in particular, the current climate financing landscape has not kept pace. Climate change is generally not taken into consideration in the allocation of development expenditures at project and programmatic levels due to its low priority by

the government over other competing development agendas such as health, security and education.

- In terms of coordination for coordinating climate change policy response, the task is divided between the Planning and Development (P&D) and Environment Protection Department (EPA). While the P&D Department is steering development of the provincial Climate Change Policy. As such, the EPA is responsible for arranging provincial systems and capacities needed to access global climate finance and effectively participate in wider international processes. However, considering that the EPA has historically remained occupied with the promotion of environmental standards and regulations at the provincial level and has very limited experience with climate change planning and financing, the institution is considerably constrained in its capacity to deliver the said functions.
- Water conservation efforts are not continuously updated to include climate change implications and The National Drinking Water Policy does not include any projected impacts of climate change on the sources and availability of drinking water, and water quality. Quality and quantity of water are likely to be directly impacted due to climate change in the region.
- The National Environment Policy has very limited focus on climate change and only narrowly focuses on Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) with a focus on urban interface for air quality, which is only one aspect of climate change.
- The Pakistan Indus Water Treaty does not include regional and national climate scenarios as identified by IPCC 2014 and other assessments.
- The Provincial Water Apportionment Accord 1990 has no mention of climate change and its impacts on future availability of water in the system. Variations and uncertainty in the water quantities can cause serious inter-provincial issues and can undermine national water security objectives due to political differences among the provinces on their water shares
- Pakistan does not have a clear and updated Agriculture Policy Document that incorporates climate change threats to different areas and climatic zones of the country

In terms of DRR, the analysis found the following inconsistencies that hamper the realization of well-formulated policies and strategies:

- The DRR policies and plans are stand alone
- Coordination mechanism with the existing organisational structures is not spelled out including with the Ministry of Climate Change
- Regular Development Planning does not include DRR as a priority area
- Focus has been on the disaster response rather than preparedness and management
- Climate change related disasters include floods but also droughts, temperature rise, crop failures etc., which are slow onset and are not the focus of existing DRR plans and strategies at national and provincial levels

Alligning Climate Action

The National Policy, after seven years of its approval, entails integration in different sectoral plans that has yet to be materialized. Climate change policy making and governance remains centred on the priorities of

the subsequent governments rather than on national priorities informed by sound knowledge and research, broad based participation and local conditions. The institutional and policy analysis for climate change shows a clear disconnect between climate change policy making processes and the existing institutional capacity to plan and implement adaptation at the provincial level.

Having policy reforms is a positive step in the right direction, however, their effective implementation needs to be supported by policy instruments (incentives and fines) that are backed by legal mechanisms. Without proper incentives, it remains challenging to enforce policies. By analysing the development plans and allocation of budgets for climate change, it is clear that climate change does not fall into the priorities in the overall development planning at the national and provincial levels.

Building upon our findings, the VOCAL campaign is successfully being implemented across Pakistan to fill the gaps identified in the policy and institutional arena by taking up key policy recommendations with the government for policy change, reform and coherence.





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Stay Tuned!

Islamic Relief Pakistan is committed to the VOCAL campaign, and seeing more multi-partner engagements in the near future.

Stay tuned for our third edition of C-CUBE to stay up-to-date of what happens behind the scenes and the results that emerge as a result.

GET IN TOUCH

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