



DEVTALK

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From CD's Desk



Asif Sherazi
Country Director
Islamic Relief Pakistan

In the labyrinthine world of climate negotiations, we often overlook the action. As discussions are being carried out and promises are being made to educate, engage

and empower communities against climate change, the real action and effort seems to be missing. No matter how well-crafted a climate strategy is, we can't achieve the desired results without funding and firm commitments. Funding is where the lofty ambitions meet the road, but unfortunately, the financial disparities are increasing and expanding for countries like Pakistan who are the biggest recipients of climate shocks.

We are witnessing a strangely extended monsoon season of 2024 as rains continue to batter Sindh, Balochistan, Gilgit Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This reminds me of 2022 floods when the situation was underreported leading to mass displacements and infrastructure losses amounting to billions of dollars. Islamic Relief Pakistan believes that empty rhetoric around climate action is blocking the way for a real and systematic change. The crisis is expanding faster than a hot air balloon in a heatwave and it is high time that donors fulfill their commitments.

The debates around climate justice should not stop no matter how challenging the circumstances become. As we continue to push boundaries, challenge false narratives and inspire change, it is high time for all stakeholders to join hands for an inclusive climate action.

I am sure you will enjoy reading the second edition of DevTalk.

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Safe at Last D.I. Khan, KP

Saeeda Bibi, a 32-year-old married woman from a small village in D.I. Khan, vividly recalls the devastation of the 2022 floods.

"The floods were terrifying, but the hardest time came after. We faced both winters and summers without a roof, sitting barefoot under the open sky."

Life in a tent brought more than just discomfort; it brought fear.

"The weather was harsh, but what scared me most was being alone when my husband left for work. I had to stay strong for my children."

Exposed to the elements and every danger, she felt helpless.

Two years later, hope arrived. Islamic Relief provided her family with a flood-resilient shelter. Along with it came a latrine, solar panel and a pedestal fan.

This summer, Saeeda and her children are living with comfort.



"We now have shelter, a fan, and solar power. My husband goes to work without worry, and I manage the household in peace. Our dignity is safe, and we finally sleep peacefully, cooled by the fan in the evenings."

The fear and uncertainty have been replaced by stability and security.



Toba Tek Singh, Punjab

A Needle's Eye to a World of Possibilities

Abida, a single mother of two from Toba Tek Singh, found hope and independence through the Women's Initiative for Skill Enhancement project by Islamic Relief Pakistan. After training in Industrial Stitching, she transformed her passion into a livelihood, embracing self-employment.

"I never imagined I'd be able to support my family like this. Now, I receive 80-90 stitching orders each month, crafting custom garments and selling unstitched suits and shawls."

This steady income has brought financial stability and a new sense of pride.

What makes her story even more heartwarming is her desire to lift others up. Seeing the struggles of women around her, she set up a stitching unit in her home.

Now, two women work with her, earning fair wages and learning valuable skills. These women, once in vulnerable positions, now have the chance to rebuild their lives, thanks to Abida's leadership and generosity.



"I know how hard it can be, so I wanted to help other women like me."

Home Again Sohbatpur, Balochistan

In Sohbatpur, Balochistan, Shabiran faced a life-altering challenge. After losing her husband, Allah Dina, she became the sole provider for her two young sons, Arif and Karim. The 2022 floods had devastated their village, leaving them without shelter and turning their vibrant community into a wasteland of ruined homes and lost crops.

With their house destroyed, Shabiran and her boys had no roof over their heads, living in makeshift tents exposed to harsh weather. Each day was a struggle as she worked tirelessly in the fields to provide for her children.

Despite the chaos, Shabiran found solace in her embroidery.

Despite the hardships, she dreamed of a better future for her sons.

"With no schools functioning, the fields became their classroom."

Islamic Relief Pakistan provided her a shelter, offering much-needed protection.

"For the first time in months, I felt a flicker of hope. No matter the odds, one should never give up."

"Even when everything else was gone, I found strength in my hobby."



A Firsthand Look at Recovery

Mirpur Khas, Sindh

by Islamic Relief Pakistan, which has been at the forefront of restoring homes and rebuilding lives.

In her encounters, Shah met inspiring women with ambitious dreams, driven to lead and create better futures for their families.

"There's an immense amount of work being done on the ground, but given the scale of the disaster, it's clear that many people still need support. Pakistan needs help."

British Labour Member of Parliament Naz Shah visited flood-affected communities in Sindh, journeying from village to village to meet those impacted by the 2022 disaster. Her visit was a heartfelt engagement with the people whose lives had been turned upside down.

She listened to the stories of resilience and determination. She witnessed firsthand the work being done



LITTLE GIRL WITH BIG DREAMS Muzaffarabad, AJK

Eman, a 4-year-old from AJK, Pakistan, lost her father before she could even know him. Orphaned at just three months old, her mother was left to raise four daughters alone, struggling to provide even the basics. Education felt out of reach and hope seemed distant.

Then Islamic Relief stepped in. Today, Eman and her family have found relief and a renewed sense of hope.

"My husband was a kind and loving man, my pillar of strength,"

her mother recalls.



"When he passed away, it felt like my world had crumbled. But Islamic Relief brought back the happiness that I had lost."

Eman, with dreams of becoming a doctor, often asks about her father. Her mother gently explains that he lives abroad and sends gifts through Islamic Relief.

Even at her young age, she knows what she wants and is not afraid to ask for it.

Eman is now in primary school. Through the support of Islamic Relief, she and her family have found hope in a time of despair and her mother is determined to fulfill every wish, ensuring Eman never feels the void of her father's absence.



Road to Climate Resilient Pakistan: Curtailing the Carbon Footprints

In the face of escalating climate challenges, Pakistan stands at a critical juncture. Despite contributing a minuscule share to global carbon emissions, the country bears the brunt of climate-induced disasters. To address these pressing issues, Islamic Relief Pakistan, in collaboration with the National Disaster Risk Management Fund, hosted “Road to Climate Resilient Pakistan: Curtailing the Carbon Footprints.” This national dialogue brought together key stakeholders from various sectors to forge a unified path toward strengthening Pakistan’s climate resilience.

Asif Sherazi, Country Director of Islamic Relief Pakistan, opened the event with a poignant reminder of the urgency of the situation. “Pakistan needs inter-sectoral planning and global support,” he stated. Sherazi highlighted the importance of transformative projects in agriculture, green hydrogen, electric mobility, and the reduction of fossil fuels. Such initiatives, he argued, are vital for Pakistan’s future survival and prosperity.

The discussions were further enriched by insights from Yong Ye, Country Director of the Asian Development Bank Pakistan. Ye underscored the potential of the carbon market as a significant opportunity for Pakistan. In a similar vein, Canadian High Commissioner Leslie Scanlon emphasized that climate financing is crucial for building resilience at the community level.

Senator Sherry Rehman, the Chief Guest, provided a sobering view on the rising costs associated with climate adaptation. She called for resilience strategies that are specifically tailored to Pakistan’s unique challenges. “Adaptation costs are substantially higher than normal development initiatives,” she noted, advocating for solutions that align with the country’s distinctive needs.

The event also featured a panel discussion moderated by media personality Sidra Iqbal. The discussions highlighted critical funding gaps and the severe impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations, particularly women and children. There was a strong emphasis on the need for increased voices to secure climate financing and the essential inclusion of women in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) initiatives.



The dialogue brought to light a crucial fact: while Pakistan’s carbon footprint is minimal, the country faces immense climate vulnerabilities. The call to action was clear; shared responsibility and innovative, inclusive solutions are needed to tackle these challenges. As Pakistan continues to navigate its climate journey, the collective effort of stakeholders from all sectors will be pivotal in building a resilient future.



ROAD TO
**CLIMATE RESILIENT
PAKISTAN** CURTAILING THE
CARBON FOOTPRINTS



BEST SOCIAL WORK MOMENTS

SHAKEEL MUKHTAR

“
Serving as a humanitarian has been both heart-wrenching and inspiring. Witnessing the struggles and suffering of others is deeply moving—it breaks my heart while fueling my passion to make a difference. These experiences continually remind me of life’s fragility and the profound value of every moment, driving me to dedicate my life to those who deserve compassion and care.
”



MADIHA SALEEM

“
Ensuring the well-being and development of our humanitarian workers is not just a responsibility but a passion. Every time I support their mental health, morale, and spirit, I know I’m investing in more than just their output—I’m empowering them to create real, lasting change. Witnessing their achievements in the field feels like a ripple effect where their impact multiplies, and that is where I find my greatest reward.
”



SYED ABRAR SHAH

“
As a Supply Chain & Services professional in the humanitarian sector, I’ve seen how vital timely delivery of basic supplies can be, it can truly save lives. At Islamic Relief Pakistan, I’m proud to play a role in ensuring vulnerable communities receive the essentials they need, especially in crises. My work is more than logistics, it’s about delivering hope, reducing suffering, and helping people rebuild with dignity.
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PERSPECTIVE

Muhammad Abid, Senior Advisor Adaptation to Climate Change, Energy, Climate Change and Just Transition Cluster, GIZ Pakistan

Informed Decisions for a Changing Climate: The Importance of Risk Assessments



Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, affecting socioeconomic development, ecosystems, and livelihoods across the globe. As the impacts of climate change become more prominent, the role of risk informed decision making has become more important. Improving access to quantifiable information on how climate is changing and impacting different sectors of the economy is the first step towards informed decision making for climate change adaptation and protecting livelihoods and ecosystems. By integrating scientific data with local knowledge, climate risk assessments can enhance resilience and adaptive capacity across various sectors, including agriculture, water management, health, and urban planning.

Climate risk assessments provide a structured approach to understanding and assessing the various risks associated with climate change. The rationale behind doing climate risk assessments is rooted in the recognition of the multifaceted nature of climate change impacts, which can manifest in diverse ways across different regions and sectors. By conducting gender sensitive climate risk assessments, stakeholders can gain insights into the specific vulnerabilities, exposures, and potential impacts that their communities, economies, and ecosystems may face. The overall goal of climate risk assessments is to enhance preparedness, resilience, and adaptation efforts in the face of climate change. By systematically analyzing and documenting the risks, decision-makers can prioritize actions and allocate resources effectively. The comprehensive climate risk assessments serve as valuable tools for informing policy development, investment strategies, and the implementation of adaptation

measures at various levels, from local to global.

Globally several tools and methodologies are being used for the climate risk assessments. The use of machine learning and AI in climate risk assessments is also growing and provides a great opportunity for vulnerable countries to make use of the developed frameworks and digital solutions to inform policy and development agenda. The “Economics of Climate Adaptation (ECA)” framework is one of the tools that provide decision makers with information about potential climate-related damage to their environment, economies and societies and help to identify comprehensive adaptation strategies in a systematic way.

Recognizing the need of data, the Pakistani government has increasingly prioritized climate risk assessments in its national policies and agenda. The National Climate Change Policy, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are key documents that emphasize the importance of understanding climate risks and its integrate into development planning, aiming to create a resilient economy that can withstand the impacts of climate change.

In conclusion, climate risk assessments are crucial for informed decision-making in the face of climate change. As demonstrated by Pakistan's proactive approach, such assessments can pave the way for effective strategies that not only address current vulnerabilities but also foster long-term resilience against the inevitable impacts of a changing climate through preparing a pipeline of bankable projects to get access to climate finance.

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS



Country Director Islamic Relief Pakistan, Asif Sherazi met with the President of ECO Science Foundation, Dr. Seyed Komail Tayebi to explore potential partnerships in key areas including the development of a green building framework, strategies for reducing carbon footprints, promoting clean energy, managing industrial emissions, and creating educational modules for science teachers and students.



Islamic Relief Pakistan has partnered with UNICEF Pakistan to enhance service delivery towards our shared goals for children in the most deprived districts.

Together, we will ensure that vulnerable children receive the care and resources they need.



Islamic Relief Pakistan inked a memorandum of understanding with Qatar Charity Pakistan!

Together, we will work to combat climate change, bolster community resilience, and advocate for mainstreaming climate considerations into national & provincial policies. This collaboration aims to promote sustainable development and alleviate poverty.



Our CEO Waseem Ahmad & CD Asif Sherazi had an insightful sharing of thoughts with HE Alfred Grannas Ambassador German Embassy Islamabad.

We talked about the development journey of Pakistan and urgent solutions for issues like climate change, girls education and women empowerment.



CEO Islamic Relief Worldwide and CD Islamic Relief Pakistan Asif Sherazi called on Mr. Yong Ye Country Director ADB Pakistan and Deputy CD Asad Aleem to discuss Pakistan's most pressing issues including climate change, post-flood recovery and rural development.

Thoughts and ideas for long-term and sustainable solutions were also exchanged during the meeting.



CD Islamic Relief Pakistan Asif Sherazi and Director Programs and Institutional Relations Islamic Relief Australia Asif Sana called on Stephanie Werner First Secretary Australian High Commission, Pakistan today and talked about the most pressing challenges including climate change and flood recovery.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

