

Climate Change Initiative in Pakistan

Background

Climate change is a phenomenon that is impacting countries around the globe and Pakistan is no exception. The country is susceptible to multi-hazards including hydro-meteorological related hazards. In 2011, the Global Climate Change Vulnerability Index (CCVI) by Maplecroft ranked Pakistan at 16 out of 170 countries - indicating that the country is extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Pakistan is particularly vulnerable to hydro-meteorological hazards including floods, landslides avalanches and droughts that degrade the environment and have grave economic consequences. In 2010, the cost of adaptation to hazards resulting from climate change was estimated to be \$ 5.75 billion or 2% of the country's GDP. Yet the estimated cost of damage and loss caused by nation-wide flooding was much higher with an estimated cost of 5% of GDP. These disasters are likely to increase in frequency and severity due to climate change. The National Climate Change Policy of Pakistan estimates that the cost of adaptation to climate change will be more than 10% of the GDP over the next 40 years; ranging from USD 13-14 per capita.

UN-Habitat Cities & Climate Change Initiative (CCCI)

A total of 21 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and islands of the Pacific are participating in the Cities and Climate Change Initiative including Pakistan. At the national level in Pakistan, UN-Habitat supports the Climate Change Division (CCD) in addressing urban development challenges and the impact of climate change. Over the past year, UN-Habitat has conducted a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment piloted in the Islamabad Capital Territory at the direction of the Federal Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister. UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Asia & Pacific (ROAP) fielded a scoping mission in close collaboration with the CCD, to conceptualize and define the scope for implementing the CCCI in Pakistan. The mission explored opportunities of co-operation among the key stakeholders and advocated for policies and guidelines that would help mitigate the impact of climate change. Specifically this initiative involved conducting a scoping analysis of vulnerability, establishing an advocacy and policy dialogue, sharing globally-tested adaptation and mitigation tools and programmes, piloting a programme for adaptation and mitigation and supporting knowledge management and dissemination amongst stakeholders.

CCCI in Islamabad

CCD and UN-Habitat initiated the pilot vulnerability assessment in Islamabad and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). A Project Steering Committee has been set-up headed by the Secretary CCD, while six-member technical oversight sub-committee of the Steering Committee was also established. The six members included representatives of the three city authorities of Capital Development Authority (CDA), Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and Capital Administration Development Division (CADD). Three other members are representing knowledge-based organisations viz Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC), Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) and Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO). The later 3 institutions have undertaken extensive analysis on climate change factors that have been included in the currently under finalisation Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Report. The report based on objective assessment also highlights projects that city authorities can mainstream in their planning for making Islamabad Climate Resilient. The final report is expected to be disseminated soon.

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