



<https://asce-uok.edu.pk/journal>  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.56384/jes.v39i2.315>

## An Analysis of the EU Assistance to Pakistan in the Wake of Climate Change with a Focus on Monsoon Flooding

Tasawar Hussain\*  
Ramisha Siddiqui\*\*

### Abstract

*This article explores the current development in the EU – Pakistan relations, particularly focuses on a new program by the EU, the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP for 2021-2027) in August 2022. It meant to support social mobilization, humanitarian and community-based projects that are in line with the EU-Pakistan Engagement Plan 2019. This article also concerns itself with the climate change issues in Pakistan with focus on rising events of catastrophic floods which gain attention of international community to assist the people stranded in disarray. The situation raised a dire need of awareness campaigns to relate self-reliance activities to manage climate related disaster managements. It explores the EU's environmental policies and practices made towards the sustainable development goals (SDGs). It further analyzes through the lens of the EU's successive projects and policies to adapt and mitigate the climate change crisis in Europe and its assistance programmes to other countries like Pakistan. It highlights the responses of international community towards Pakistan, after the country was hit by unprecedented heavy monsoon rains.*

**Keywords:** EU-Pakistan, Climate change crisis, Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP), Sustainability, Environmental policies, Monsoon Flooding, EU assistance, Donations.

### A brief history of Pakistan - EU relations

A long history of Pak-EU relations, mostly along the lines of the then Western Europe now EU helping Pakistan since 1976, when the first European

---

\* Dr. Tasawar Hussain is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Social Sciences, Iqra University, Islamabad. Email: [pop11th@gmail.com](mailto:pop11th@gmail.com).

\*\* Ms. Ramisha Siddiqui is a graduate student of Development Studies at Iqra University, Islamabad. Email: [ramishaa75@gmail.com](mailto:ramishaa75@gmail.com).

Commission – Pakistan Commercial Cooperation Agreement was signed. After 10 years, a Commercial and Cooperation Agreement valid for 5 years was also signed. Pakistan received 70.1 m ECU during the period 1976-1984 under the Community's programme of technical assistance for development projects.<sup>1</sup>

The era of 1980s saw the Commission establishing many projects related to commercial, economic and social betterment which were focused on mainly to improve international standards, quality control, professional and skillful environment. The objective of the cooperation was to ensure best practices in trade and commercial ties between the two sides.

During 1990s the European Commission facilitated its portfolio and reoriented its exercises towards the social and industrial sectors by inclusion the condition of good governance and administrative transparency as a policy matter in the partnership strategy for Pakistan. The European Commission also offered to support SMEs and NGOs in Pakistan. The EU had even stood along with Pakistan to improve its trade volume and the World Trade Organization (WTO) - linked matters. A trade-related technical assistance programme was launched in 2004 with the end goals of smoothing out methodology for a peaceful democratic transition in the country and cycles for exchange help consistence with EU standards and principles.<sup>2</sup>

From 1976 till 2009, the EU has given a total €500 million as development aid to Pakistan.<sup>3</sup> During 2001-02, there was a steep rise in EU's development assistance, mounted to €100 million. It was €338.138 million donated during President Musharraf's period (2002-2006). A limited fund of €5.043 million was allocated on the thematic line of human rights. For the year 2007-13, the rest of assistance meant for democracy promotion and human rights reforms particularly for the rights of minorities and women.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> EC – Pakistan Joint Commission. Visit [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/MEMO\\_86\\_137](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/MEMO_86_137).

<sup>2</sup> See details in Naveed Ahmad Tahir, *A Survey of EU-Pakistan Relations in the Contemporary Regional and International Setting: Political, Security, Economic and Development Aspects* (Karachi: Area Study Centre for Europe, 2003).

<sup>3</sup> B. Mikail, "Assessing Democracy Assistance: Pakistan", Project Report for the Foundation for Future, FRIDE, (Madrid, 2011), 5.

<sup>4</sup> Masih ullah Khan, "Is the EU a Global Force for Good? Four Case Studies in South Asia", (September 2012), available from <https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/156375/Masih.pdf>.

The October 2005 earthquake devastated Northern Areas of Pakistan, specifically Azad Jammu, Kashmir and North West Territory. The Commission proposed a relief bundle of €93.6 million for rehabilitation of affected people.<sup>5</sup> While the total European contribution was up to €600 million for the victims.<sup>6</sup> Also, it allocated € 300,000 to provide emergency relief later in September 2019's earthquake fund.<sup>7</sup>

In May 2007, the European Union took another positive step for Pakistan with the establishment of a "Sub-Group on Trade" under the Pakistan-EU Joint Commission which was created for the removal of tariffs for Pakistan. Later in 2010, Pakistan faced a critical situation as a large number of populations was impacted by the floods, over 20 million Pakistanis were displaced in that disastrous situation. The European Commission has approved EUR 10 million in emergency relief fund for Islamabad and it enhanced the relief assistance to €423 million, to cope with the destructions, under the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO).<sup>8</sup>

In its request to the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) Pakistan had stated the need for tents, water purification equipment and tablets, blankets and medicines, among others. Some countries such as Austria, Slovakia and France had offered to provide some of the items requested at the time of emergency response.

Since 2014, Pakistan has been taking advantage of the Generalized System of Preferences Plus (GSP+) with the elimination of above 66% of EU tariff lines. To profit from the GSP +, Pakistan needs to have shown progress towards the execution of 27 worldwide conventions connected with great administration, human and worker rights and natural security. Pakistan's

---

<sup>5</sup> Visit at <https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/pakistan-earthquake-commission-proposes-%E2%82%AC936-million-aid-package>.

<sup>6</sup> European Commission, "One year on: The European Commission response to the South Asian earthquake", MEMO/06/366, Brussels, 6 October 2006.

<sup>7</sup> Visit at [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan/press-release-eu-allocates-%E2%82%AC-300000-provide-emergency-relief-earthquake\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan/press-release-eu-allocates-%E2%82%AC-300000-provide-emergency-relief-earthquake_en).

<sup>8</sup> European Commission, "The Commission to provide shelter, food, water and healthcare to victims of Pakistan's floods", Press Release, 17 October 2011. See also ECHO, "EU Mobilises Additional Help for Flood Victims in Pakistan," 22 September 2011, view at <https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/eu-mobilises-additional-help-flood-victims-pakistan>.

biggest export destination is offered by the EU. In 2019, the EU represented 33% of Pakistani outer exchange with Pakistani commodities to the EU coming to a total of €7.492 billion, while EU commodities to Pakistan addressed €5.545 billion. One of the greatest EU subsidized programs during this financing period (2015-2021) was the Sindh Union Council and Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCES). This undertaking meant to empower the public authority of Sindh to help and support improvement drives driven by the practically engaged networks in the territory.<sup>9</sup>

The EU gives Pakistan about €100 million yearly in grants for advancement and collaboration. This incorporates endeavours to accomplish environment comprehensive development with rule of law and sustainable methods of using natural resources, better administration and human rights. EU projects are mostly focused on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Baluchistan and Gilgit-Baltistan. In 2019, EU-Pakistan cooperation was working under the Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP). Collaboration under the SEP incorporates harmony and advanced levels of development through new technology which was aimed to promote Pakistan's economy and culture.<sup>10</sup>

In April 2021, the European Parliament embraced a goal requesting Pakistan to safeguard opportunities for strict minorities and raised concerns about various basic liberties issues and asked the Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) to reevaluate Pakistan's special exchange (GSP+) status.<sup>11</sup>

### **Enhanced cooperation under SDGs**

In August 2022, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the Minister for Economic Affairs of Pakistan briefed Ambassador of the EU Dr. Riina Kionka, on the after-flood conditions in Pakistan and emphasis on how the monetary cooperation and relief package may help in disaster alleviation during this appalling circumstances. The Representative valued the efforts of Pakistan officials to

---

<sup>9</sup> EEAS, European Union Provides €350,000 to Assist Floods Victims in Pakistan, see at [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan/european-union-provides-%E2%82%AC350000-assist-floods-victims-pakistan\\_en?s=175](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan/european-union-provides-%E2%82%AC350000-assist-floods-victims-pakistan_en?s=175).

<sup>10</sup> Delegation of the EU to Pakistan, "EU Projects with Pakistan," July 29, 2021, see at [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/pakistan/eu-projects-pakistan\\_en?s=175](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/pakistan/eu-projects-pakistan_en?s=175).

<sup>11</sup> EU-Pakistan Joint Commission, June 18, 2021, [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-pakistan-joint-commission\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-pakistan-joint-commission_en).

work for accomplishing commitments of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The gathering was trailed by the joint launching of the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP), covering the period 2021-2027. Under this new help plan of the EU for Pakistan, an underlying award of €265 million has been reserved for the period from 2021 to 2024.<sup>12</sup>

Under the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP), the EU and Pakistan focuses on green inclusive growth (67% of the budget); where the plan looks to enhance the monetary areas with high potential for work creation, encouraging business improvement in a comprehensive way and guaranteeing sustainable methods of development. Admittance to basic creation factors, for example, clean energy and water are likewise upheld and the plans from 2021-2027 in KPK and GB is mainly aimed to enhance the agricultural development where the Energy for Climate Resilience programme (€30 million) will add to increase determination on environmental change variation and moderation by expanding admittance to clean energy to encourage comprehensive and supportable development., human capital (16%); EU backing to government changes on specialized and professional instruction and preparing has straightforwardly helped about 250 000 individuals., and governance including rule of law and human rights (18%); The EU upholds law and order by reinforcing equity and policing; advancing residents' privileges with major areas of strength for women and discriminated groups and by extending endeavors to get harmony and solidness, prominently in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan.<sup>13</sup>

The targets of the MIP are directed by the Pakistan Vision 2025 to bring essential improvement and reforms needed for progress and development and initiate new EU-support projects by utilizing the international program of the European Commission (2019-2024) for the purpose. In addition, it also meant to upgrade incorporated collaboration, as illustrated under the Strategic Engagement Plan (2019). The EU Ambassador Dr. Kionka has stated that

---

<sup>12</sup> Delegation of the EU to Pakistan, Launching of the EU Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027 for 265m Euro for Pakistan. Ministry of Economic Affairs, Government of Pakistan, August 4, 2022. See [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan/press-release-european-union-launches-support-package-pakistan-under-multi\\_en?s=175](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan/press-release-european-union-launches-support-package-pakistan-under-multi_en?s=175).

<sup>13</sup> "Pakistan," International Partnerships, accessed February 4, 2023, [https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/countries/pakistan\\_en](https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/countries/pakistan_en).

The EU multiannual indicative programme for Pakistan sets out the EU's development strategic objectives in support of a stable, democratic and pluralistic Pakistan, in line with the EU-Pakistan Strategic Engagement Plan, which frames the relationship between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.<sup>14</sup>

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were laid out in 2015 by the UN 2030 Plan for bringing world with equal opportunities for economic growth, environmental care and social well-being. Nations of the world all in all swore to draw cohesive policies for poverty eradication, transforming societies through reforms, guarantee everybody's common freedoms, and respect for human dignity with no discrimination by 2030.<sup>15</sup> The EU made a positive and valuable commitment to the improvement of the 2030 Plan and as per the Sustainable Development Report 2022, the top achiever countries, which were utilized the SDGs are from within the EU including Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Austria and the rest. These EU countries in the 2022 report have secured scores starting from 86.51 by Finland to moving below 85.63 by Denmark which remains the highest score globally.<sup>16</sup>

#### **Climate change and EU initiatives**

With the threat to the climate degradations, the EU initiated the European Green Deal in December 2019 to ensure climate-neutral region and complete transformation across all the sectors to boost the European economy in renewable terms to become more sustainable. The purpose of this deal is to promote a circular economy by facilitating efficient use of resources to mitigate climate change, reverse biodiversity, and reduce pollution in all sectors of the economy especially transportation, energy, agriculture, construction, and industries such as steel, cement, textiles, & chemicals. It takes into account the necessary investments required and the financing available, as well as to fulfill their commitments of Paris

---

<sup>14</sup> Delegation of the EU to Pakistan, "Press Release- European Union Launches Support Package for Pakistan under Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027," April 8, 2022, view at [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan/press-release-european-union-launches-support-package-pakistan-under-multi\\_en?s=175](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan/press-release-european-union-launches-support-package-pakistan-under-multi_en?s=175).

<sup>15</sup> European Commission, "Sustainable Development Goals," view at [https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/sustainable-development-goals\\_en](https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/sustainable-development-goals_en).

<sup>16</sup> Sustainable Development Report, "SDG Rankings - 2022," view at <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/rankings>.

Agreement, taking every step for carbon reduction, clean energy, and nuclear safety.<sup>17</sup>

Likewise, the EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy (CEAP) II: The Circular Economy Package (2015 and 2020) has been put into effect to promote global economic competitiveness & efficiency. Its policies span over the complete lifecycle of the product and ensure keeping the resources in economic cycles for as long as possible. CEAP II has focused on resource-intensive sectors such as textiles, construction, electronics, and plastics since 2015.

Alongside, product design impacts the amount of environmental impact it will have; as a result, “Regulations on Eco-design for Sustainable Products” have been put in place to ensure an overall reduction of the product's environmental imprint. It outlines a clear regulatory framework for making products sustainable. To further increase resource efficiency, each product will have a “Digital Passport” that will help with maintenance and recycling.

In the same course, food systems account for nearly one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions GHG which have significantly induced climate crisis and environmental changes. “Farm to Fork Strategy” aims to revolutionize the food system tailoring with citizens’ health and economic benefits by establishing frameworks for common agriculture and fishery policies as crucial tools. It also assures food security and equal access to adequate, safe, nutritious food for all.

Later, the EU has launched New 2030 Biodiversity Strategy – a fundamental pillar of the European Green Deal is to channelize resources for a safe nature and ecosystem. By improving existing legislation and introducing new criteria, goals, and regulatory frameworks, the strategy intends to recoup Europe's loss of biodiversity and preserve nature. Air, water & soil pollution continue to pose an obstacle to a safe and sustainable planet. The European Green Deal sets to monitor the air, water, and soil to minimize harmful levels and restore biodiversity under the Zero Pollution Action Plan.<sup>18</sup>

---

<sup>17</sup> “The European Green Deal 2019” at [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en).

<sup>18</sup> “The EU Green Deal – a Roadmap to Sustainable Economies,” view at <https://www.switchtogreen.eu/the-eu-green-deal-promoting-a-green-notable-circular-economy/>.

### **Global Climate Change and its Impact on Pakistan**

The Earth's climate has evolved throughout the years and, today, climate change has become the most significant challenge faced by our planet. Since the 19th century, the Earth's surface temperature has increased by around 0.8°C due to human intervention with the climate system, mostly through the release of greenhouse gases, ocean warming, the combustion of fossil fuels, and changes in land use.<sup>19</sup> According to NOAA, 2014 was the hottest year ever recorded in Europe.<sup>20</sup> If emissions are not drastically reduced within the upcoming decades, this trend of rising temperatures will continue, and by 2100, the world could warm by another 4°C or so.<sup>21</sup> Global warming of this magnitude will have major consequences, both on the atmosphere and human societies.<sup>22</sup> According to some scientists, nearly 40% of the species that are currently living on our planet may go extinct as soon as 2050 because of the climate crisis.<sup>23</sup>

For example, China faced a record-breaking heat wave, leading to a drought which had devastating effects on its most important river, the Yangtze. More than 400 million people depend on the river for their access to water, food, transportation, and hydropower. Not only that but the wildlife and plant species that live in and around the river have also been impacted by the intense weather. The Dugong, a type of sea cow, and the Yangtze River Dolphin, the rare species, are in critical danger as a result of the 2022 drought.<sup>24</sup>

Another example of climate change is Pakistan's 2022 monsoon season, which led to severe floods that at one point covered more than a third of the population. This has caused a significant number of deaths, destruction, and relocation of people in those areas. To root out the causes of climate change and its effects, the world needs to adopt joint strategies and share various

---

<sup>19</sup> IPCC Climate Change 2013, p. 21. Visit at [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2016/02/WG1AR5\\_FAQ\\_brochure\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2016/02/WG1AR5_FAQ_brochure_FINAL.pdf).

<sup>20</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Global Climate Report 2015, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/monthly-report/global/201513>.

<sup>21</sup> Georg Feulner, "Global Challenges: Climate Change," 2015, view at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/gch2.1003>.

<sup>22</sup> IPCC Climate Change 2014.

<sup>23</sup> Feulner, "Global Challenges: Climate Change."

<sup>24</sup> Dennis Wong, "China's Record Heatwave, Worst Drought in Decades," August 31, 2022, see at <https://multimedia.scmp.com/infographics/news/china/article/3190803/china-drought/index.html>.



techniques of mitigation and adaptation. Economies and societies must not neglect a transition to decarbonizing systems, which are shifting to cleaner options like solar and wind energy instead of fossil fuels.<sup>25</sup>

The climate crisis is also linked to ethical problems due to its scale and persistence because poor nations around the globe are not relatively contributing to global emissions, but their ecology is tremendously harmed by climate change. The least developed or poor countries are less able to adapt to climate change financially and institutionally. This puts their socio-economic structure and the health of people in danger, due to droughts, mal nourishment, storms, floods and vector-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue and yellow fever etc. Whereas, it is important to note that the developing countries have contributed very little action to the problem, they are more vulnerable to encounter the consequences of climate change, which may compromise their developmental progress. Developing nations can employ policies to utilize human capacity, investment, and technology to gain considerable opportunities for mitigation while pursuing their development objectives.<sup>26</sup>

Climate change has not only intensified the already existing diseases and viruses but it is also regenerating new deadly infectious diseases. Densely populated countries from developing countries and people with weak immunity are the most affected ones. In this critical scenario people needs to have an ethical responsibility to address the climate challenge issue that will require public awareness campaigns, solution based international agreements on climate crisis that are; legally binding, sustainable and effective, and bottom-up initiatives from people and communities.

For many years now climate change is the most critical issue and for ages, it has been the center of focus friendly population of the developed and developing countries are now faced to adapt the new smart environment friendly lifestyle. We are the ones to see its effect or disturbing events and have one opportunity to address it. The major issues because of climate change include increasing frequency of flood, weather conditions change at its limits, melting glaciers and so on. Because of climate hazards, non-

---

<sup>25</sup> IPCC, Report 2014.

<sup>26</sup> Kemal Dervis, "Climate Change Threatens the Development Gains Already Achieved," view at <https://www.unclearn.org/wp-content/uploads/library/undp30.pdf>.

industrial nations are confronting essentially more serious dangers and catastrophes than the developed world.

Geologically, Pakistan placed in a region where the impact of climate change and global warming is severely extreme, which brings about ecological, social as well as financial consequences. Hence, it requires more prominent responses from every sector of the state, government, public, and private organizations or individuals. If we take a glance back at 2010 statistics of super flooding, it expresses the heartbreaking impacts. Because of that roughly twenty million individuals were destitute and numerous residents were homeless and so forth. Moreover, the 2012 details of flood situation in Pakistan were more unfortunate. It is expected that Pakistan in coming years will encounter average temperatures altogether higher than around the world, as there will be an increment from 1.3°C to 4.9°C.<sup>27</sup>

According to Inform Risk Index in 2020, Pakistan was 18<sup>th</sup> out of 191 nations.<sup>28</sup> Moreover, without a trace of advanced and executing policies, the environmental change moderation and adaptation procedures might overburden low-income or minimal families. Drives to increment public transportation costs for example those driven via carbon pricing or endeavours to upgrade local area travel could incredibly impact the negligible families. Another model which is like the previous one decreases forestry practices which might influence local communities for quite a long time that are subject to the fire woods for their living and survival.

Although social orders give an extensive variety of points of view, thought and capacities to the issues of decreasing weakness and dealing with global warming. Societies should take part in creating sustainability in the locale as opposed to being reliant. The leaders need to go to lengths to determine such issues in the area. Moreover, IPCC's most recent report emphasizes the significance of local, specialized and neighbourhood information in building versatility. Through progression in building environment approaches, societies and minority gatherings might be linked to economic assistance.<sup>29</sup>

---

<sup>27</sup> Pakistan Today, "Climate Change and Its Impacts in Pakistan," June 17, 2022, see at <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2022/06/17/climate-change-and-its-impacts-in-pakistan/>.

<sup>28</sup> Inform Risk Index quoted in Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

### **Flooding 2022 and Its Catastrophic Impact**

During the course of intense levels of rainfall and extreme floods in 2022 which led to an emergency circumstance of residents in all affected districts of Pakistan. The turmoil has been increased day by day with millions of people under open sky, without land, food, water, shelter, medicine and other necessity. It was a common realization that the human and material loss is not easy to recover. Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) territory which previously had proclaimed a crisis in the locale has classified it as a disaster, and correspondingly in the KP region, the calamity that hit the areas has multiplied. Across country, eighty regions have been pronounced 'calamity hit' i.e., 31 in Baluchistan, 23 in Sindh, 17 in KP, six in GB and three in Punjab. Likewise, numerous different regions were influenced with practically no past true proclamation except for the circumstance there is the same as the calamity hit pronounced areas.<sup>30</sup>

As per the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) almost 33 million residents were affected by the weighty rains and flooding. Likewise, more than 470,000 people have moved to aggregate destinations, while other are being dislodged and being facilitated by different families. Over 1.1 million homes which are completely damaged. The situation demanded disaster management skills from government – local, provincial and at national levels.

In Baluchistan, the quantity of broken and obliterated homes rose from a couple 29,800 to more noteworthy than 61,000; in Sindh extremely 896,000 homes were broken or obliterated in contrast with north of 586,000 according to week prior reports; and in KP, around 76,000 homes are broken or obliterated by the reports of mid-June 2022. A significant issue has also been created as the bridges are broken and there is near to no way for the authorities to provide the needed areas with the required supplies, therefore, help can only be provided when an appropriate structure is made. With the rising and intense levels of rainfall, the number continued to increment in contrast with earlier months. Another great problem is that the

---

<sup>30</sup> Reliefweb, "Pakistan: 2022 Monsoon Floods", Situation Report No. 5, September 9, 2022, available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/pakistan-2022-monsoon-floods-situation-report-no-5-9-september2022#:~:text=The%20NDMA%20reports%20that%20some,Baltistan%20and%20three%20in%20Punjab.>

Railway lines have also been compromised and are no longer in a normal condition to be used.<sup>31</sup>

According to the underlying assessments, water protection structures were damaged in flood effected regions bringing about terrible sterilization and cleanliness issues. The fundamental worries are the admittance to get polishing off the water, uplifting the danger of water and sterilization-related sickness. Water has great capacity for breeding new diseases if it is stagnant and hence water in the flooded areas is everywhere which arises the concern of many waters borne diseases like diarrhea, skin diseases, malaria and so on.<sup>32</sup> We have seen similar destruction in Pakistan from floods earlier and a glimpse of their human and material losses.

#### **Empirics of human and material losses**

Severe monsoon rains have triggered floods in northern and southern Pakistan. In the last year 2022, Pakistan has experienced nearly threefold more rain than the 30-year average in the quarter through mid-June till August. The total rainfall estimated is approximately 390.7 millimetres in Sindh province which is more than 471% rain than the 30-year average rainfall. However, the floods have affected the southeastern region of Sindh and neighbouring Baluchistan the most. The heavy monsoon rain and glacier outburst results in floods and landslides in Pakistan. According to (GOP), declared the biggest humanitarian crisis in their history. Half of the Pakistani districts have been declared the calamity-hit. It considered 160 districts including Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan, KPK, and Gilgit Baltistan regions on the red list. According to the surveys and reports, 33 million people were affected by the floods and landslides, 1,265 causalities occurred, more than 12,500 people were injured, 17,566 education institutions were destroyed or damaged meanwhile 1.4 million houses were damaged or destroyed in the whole nationwide. Although, 3,150 miles of roads were damaged and 250 bridges were destroyed entirely. According to the current situation, the total estimated cost for this destruction is approximately \$10 billion.<sup>33</sup>

---

<sup>31</sup> Reliefweb. Report no.5.

<sup>32</sup> Reliefweb, Situation Report No. 04, "Pakistan: 2022 Monsoon Floods," September 2, 2022, 4, view at <https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/pakistan-2022-monsoon-floods-situation-report-no-04-2-september-2022>.

<sup>33</sup> Reliefweb, USAID, "Pakistan - Floods Fact Sheet," September 2, 2022, view at <https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/pakistan-floods-fact-sheet-1-fiscal-year-fy-2022>.

Furthermore, In September 2014, the late monsoon spell, coupled with major water discharge through the eastern river in Chenab results in massive floods in AJ&K, Punjab, and Gilgit-Baltistan. According to the available estimates, 2.5 million people were affected by the floods, heavy rainfalls, and a landslide which includes 367 persons dead, and 129,880 houses damaged or destroyed. Although, 1 million acres of cropland and 250,000 farmers were affected. The estimated cost for the recovery of damages or losses was the US \$439.7 million.<sup>34</sup>

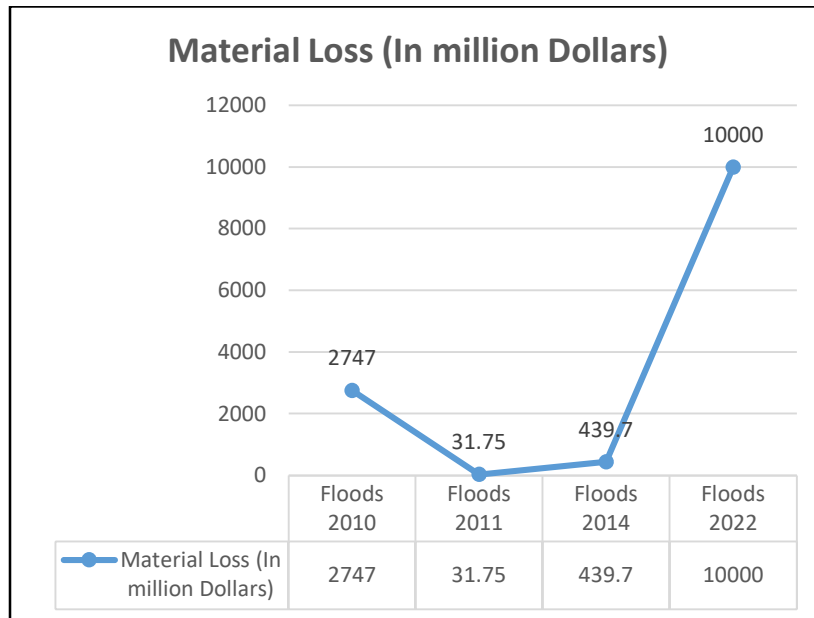
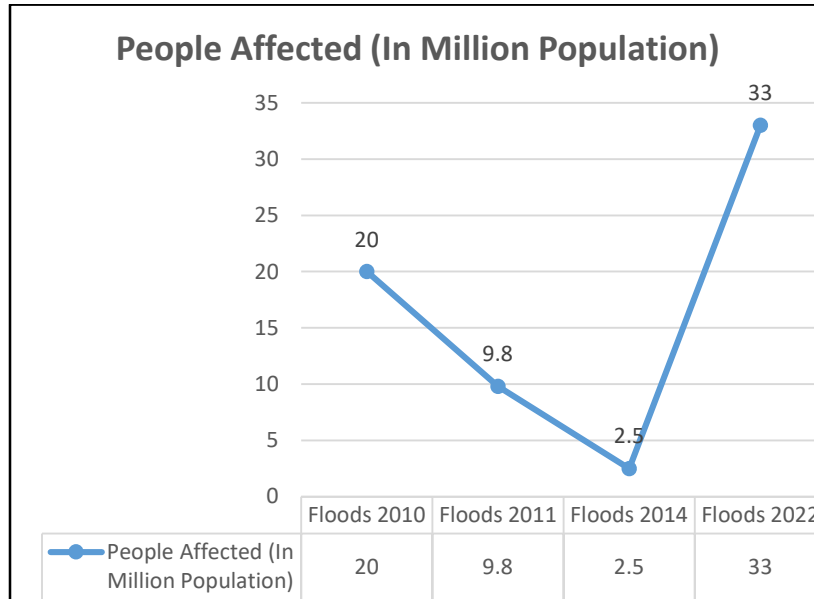
Meanwhile, the 2010-11 monsoon rainfall spell triggered unprecedented floods in Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan, KPK, and AJ&K. 20 million people were affected in the 2010 flood while 9.8 million people in the 2011 flood. The total casualties in 2010 are approximately 1700 and in 2011, 520 people were killed<sup>35</sup>. In 2010, nearly 1.1 million houses were damaged or destroyed while in 2011, 86,000 houses were destroyed. The total number of educational institutions affected by the flood is around 4,096. The minimum reconstruction cost for the damages or losses in 2010 11 is approximately US\$2747 million. The floods that recently affected Sindh and Baluchistan have already impacted millions of people and are likely to have economic, social, and environmental consequences for years to come. The 2011 floods have caused damage to the forests, plantations, nurseries, department infrastructure, and cultural heritage sites. These damages have been estimated to be Rs. 2,762.66 million (US\$ 31.75 million).<sup>36</sup>

---

<sup>34</sup> Reliefweb, Pakistan floods 2014, available at <https://reliefweb.int/disaster/fl-2014-000122-pak>

<sup>35</sup> “2011 Pakistan Floods - Preliminary Damage and Needs Assessment” Pakistan – government Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, the Asian Development Bank United Nations – Headquarters, 2011.

<sup>36</sup> “Pakistan: Flood Impact Assessment”, Pakistan Economic Survey 2014-15. Visit [https://www.finance.gov.pk/survey\\_1415.html](https://www.finance.gov.pk/survey_1415.html).



On 9 September 2022, António Guterres the Secretary-General of the UN spoke to the media where he called the 2022 flooding of Pakistan a matter of justice, in clear words he stated that “Developed countries must step up

and provide Pakistan and other countries on the frontlines with the financial and technical resources they need to survive extreme weather events like these deadly floods, this is not a matter of solidarity or generosity; it is a matter of justice.” Antonio believes that as the developed countries are responsible for most of the global warming, they should be the ones investing in renewable energy and helping the developing countries with situations like floods and so on. Antonio also released a global appeal saying “From Pakistan, I am issuing a global appeal: stop the madness; end the war with nature; invest in renewable energy now”.<sup>37</sup>

### **EU's assistance after flooding**

The Directorate-General of (ECHO) stated that the European Union will provide Pakistan with \$350,000 for the flood victims. The aid will be provided across different parts of the country; this aid program will help those who have been badly affected by this devastating disaster ever caused in the history of Pakistan. The southwestern part of Pakistan has been affected badly, the areas include Jhal Magsi and Lasbella which will be the centre of focus for the EU for providing the most aid to these areas. The assistance will also support the international Rescue committee to provide immediate needs which would also include victims coping with water-caused diseases which are natural after such disasters, along with medical needs they would also support the psychological needs of the vulnerable affected people.

The EU funding would be available through the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) of the European Commission.<sup>38</sup> Offers received so far from the EU countries to the Pakistani authorities are Belgium provided 300 family tents, Sweden provided 300 family tents, France provided 83 mobile water pumps, kitchen kits, 400 hygiene kits, 1000 ground sheets, along with a team of 8 doctors and technicians and 1 bailey bridge too, Austria provided 400,000 antigen tests and 10,000 examination gloves and Denmark provided with a team of water purification.

The European Civil Protection Mechanism will send one officer to ensure the smooth delivery of Aid. The assistance was provided with an initial payment of \$2.15 million last week whereas the additional payment was also lent to cope with the flood caused by the disaster. In the mean-while EU's

---

<sup>37</sup> “Secretary-General’s Opening Remarks at Joint Press Stakeout with Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Foreign Minister of Pakistan”, United Nations, 9 September 2022

<sup>38</sup> EEAS, “European Union Provides €350,000 to Assist Floods Victims in Pakistan.”

Copernicus satellite has been activated to collect data for further assistance.<sup>39</sup>

Other than this, the EU countries have been extremely supportive of Pakistan in this crucial time when Pakistan needed it the most and countries like Belgium, Denmark, France and Sweden are the prominent ones to help Pakistan cope with the extreme loss.<sup>40</sup>

### **Short-term and long-term initiatives to avoid next catastrophe**

It's a popular debate among climate change advocates over the measures to be taken to avoid or prevent such catastrophes for example floods. Keeping Pakistan in view, it is among the 10 most affected countries by the global climate crisis. So, the EU and other multi-national arrangements have an eye on the state of the matters in Pakistan. Floods are a frequent phenomenon in Pakistan, floods can be categorized into two as urban and rural flooding. Both need different approaches to be countered.

States cannot prevent such calamities through short-term initiatives, the short-term initiatives help to minimize the damage caused by such crises. For this in Pakistan the NDMA a body of the federal government plays its role in actually just minimizing the loss of life and property additionally actions to mitigate by having early warning strategies in place. The EU can play its part in the development of NDMA structure and enhances its resources for better response systems. Short-term measures can be the following as early warning systems for floods and heavy rain predictive remote sensing technology which is resource dependent where the EU can provide technical knowledge and funding. Furthermore, the zoning of people out of flood risk areas to new settlements needs adequate resources for the structuring of new housing in short term, for which the EU is a great source of aid or soft loans for resettling of population.

The long-term initiatives need lengthy debates and agreements. They are very cost extensive. Furthermore, it requires a policy roadmap ranging over years and decades. It has inherent problems due to the ever-changing nature of calamities and Pakistani non-regular policies changing with regimes. Plus,

---

<sup>39</sup> "Pakistan: EU Helps Coordinate Incoming Assistance for Flood Victims," ECHO, September 6, 2022, see at <https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/pakistan-eu-helps-coordinate-incoming-assistance-flood-victims>.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.



Pakistan is in a dire state of financial structure which is another constraint on the long-term solutions to avoiding catastrophes.

Though analysts have a range of policy recommendations starting from structuring new water conservation and storage or retention of water planning. This will require external support and the EU needs to pitch in due to the major burden being on industrialized states for the global climate crisis. Another way is to ensure long-term policy-making for management response to such calamities by having initiatives of increasing green cover as well as reducing pollution overall. The decision-making process needs to be strong and quick to ensure these conditions do not further deteriorate. The EU can help in following lines in non-structural approaches such as awareness campaigns and most important sharing knowledge with authorities. The increase of the local population in the decision-making process to safeguard the social fabric which is indigenous to the land.

Similarly, the EU can be very helpful with the urban planning of Pakistan which is the most alarming concern due to unplanned urban sprawling and the rising urban population. The restructuring of the urban drainage system and increase vegetation in cities. The EU can help in technical assistance in the following areas to reduce urban flooding Land use, zoning and risk assessment and offer help to NDMA for it.<sup>41</sup>

In 2021, the EU-Pakistan Joint Commission was held through a video conference where subgroups had a meeting on collective development cooperation, the meeting was a discussion of ideas for avoiding any catastrophe as the world was still under the Covid-19 pandemic. This meeting was not only filled with solutions to many current problems but the subgroups had even praised each other for the way both the parties have progressed within their collective plans like the SEP, GSP+ and the European Green Deal. These meetings are the best way for both parties to bring their ideas together and avoid any catastrophe coming up their way.<sup>42</sup>

In October 2022, during a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the European Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janez Lenarčič, announced

---

<sup>41</sup> M. Morris, "*Best Practices on Flood Prevention, Protection and Mitigation*", 2003, view at [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/flood\\_risk/pdf/flooding\\_bestpractice.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/flood_risk/pdf/flooding_bestpractice.pdf).

<sup>42</sup> "EU-Pakistan Joint Commission," European Union External Action, June 18, 2021, see at [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-pakistan-joint-commission\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-pakistan-joint-commission_en).

PKR 6.7 billion (€30 million) in humanitarian aid for Pakistan. The European Commission's Copernicus satellite service collects real time data and provides high resolution maps to support the assessment of the situation in the most affected areas. In a statement Mr. Lenarčič said:

... With this new funding, the EU reaffirms its continued support to Pakistan and stands by the most vulnerable to help them fulfil basic needs. Once again, however, nature reminded us of the impact of global warming. Mainstreaming disaster preparedness and prevention in EU funded projects will therefore remain our top priority within the provision of humanitarian assistance.<sup>43</sup>

### **Global consciousness and cooperation**

To fix the problem of degradation and its consequences, it is important for all stakeholders they must be truly conscious of its gravity. Although developed countries are well aware of the consequences of intense climate change but yet still chose to move about damaging the environment because of the massive capital and profit that comes in with the deal. We have come across some recommendation on how to save the environment and some amazing measures have also been active in practice, however, even after every country is mindful of how important the environment is for the sustainability of mankind it is still being damaged with every coming hour. Hence, we stand on the point that it is not the lack of literature or consciousness which results in the degradation of the environment, it is rather the greed that people have where they do not think twice before damaging.

Mar Campins Eritja in her recent work on *The European Union and Global Environmental Protection* talks about the EU capabilities, instruments and components, as well as the ongoing global difficulties at the EU level. It then investigates contextual analysis models from regulated fields: environmental change, biodiversity, multilateral exchange, unregulated fishing, and admittance to equity; and unregulated areas like mainstreaming of the sustainable development goals in EU approaches, and environmental

---

<sup>43</sup> "The EU-Pakistan Joint Commission", 5 October, 2022. Visit at <https://mofa.gov.pk/eu-pakistan-joint-commission-5-october-2022/>.

justice.<sup>44</sup> The finest part about this book is that it highlights some major issues related to the environment unlike the issues addressed in a manner that sounds so vague that it seems either beyond being solved or as being too easy to elucidate. When the world had MDGs as a book of guidance they only realized that environment was hardly even considered while planning the future of the world.

The EU-UN are global partners, which, all together, contain the world's most developed countries and hence are responsible for the development globally. The two bodies are working together for global peace and security. They emphasis on the food security around the world. The EU aimed to invest around €7.7 billion until 2024 to help clear and make better food systems around the world.<sup>45</sup>

The EU consists of countries that are all mostly developed and can help the rest of the world to follow in the same footsteps to reach up there. A large chunk of students travels to the EU countries every year for the advance education. Scholarship and Climate - related exchange programmes to raise learning capabilities for adaptation and mitigation techniques would be a useful resource in this regard.

### **Conclusion**

So far, it is evident that healthy environment of the earth is necessary for every human and living being. If we damage the environment in any such way, we will come across some very catastrophic situations like the many that have been mentioned above. The EU seems to be moving in the right direction with all the sustainable development methods that it has been using which will help many countries stay alive for a much longer time, apart from that the EU have been a great support to Pakistan in many heart-wrecking events. The main theme is to justify the importance of the issue of climate change and pinpoint to make realize that how this very sensitive topic has been rather ignored for many years and has now resulted in the kind of unprecedented disaster around the globe that is very critical to reverse. Hence, when many countries have seemed to face calamitous

---

<sup>44</sup> Mar Campins Eritja, *The European Union and Global Environmental Protection* (Routledge, 2022).

<sup>45</sup> "EU-UN: Global Partners," European Union External Action, September 16, 2022, available at [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-un-global-partners\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-un-global-partners_en).

events, especially Pakistan with the most intense risk ratio, people are now mentally ready for shifting to more sustainable methods of development.

Moreover, help, donations, aids, and cooperation are the means through which countries can help each other but as we have discussed earlier that it also brings an obstacle with itself which in easier words can be called discrimination. The world now knows how important the environment is but still seems to have some political secrets behind its “Go Green” phenomenon.

Pakistan and every other country overburdening its need to wake up and fix this issue before it's too late. The EU not only uses sustainable development methods but also helps create plans for the countries in need, so the countries in trouble can either follow the footsteps of the EU or either collaborate with them to make this world a better place.