

RCC member countries

Pakistan



Country Information

Region: South Asia

Population: Approximately 197 million

Capital: Islamabad

GDP (US\$): \$304.952 billion

Geography: Pakistan consists of mountainous terrain, plateaus and level plains. The country can be divided into five major regions: the Himalayan and Karakoram ranges, the Hindu Kush and the western mountains, the Balochistan plateau, the sub-montane plateau and the Indus River Plain.

General climate: Although Pakistan has 11 distinct and overlapping climatic zones, it is predominantly a dry land country. 80% of the land is arid or semi-arid with wide temperature differences depending on the season and location.

INFORM Risk Rating: 6.2

Risk Summary

- Due to its high variability in terms of geology, topography and meteorology, Pakistan is exposed to a variety of hazards, including cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, floods, and landslides.
- Pakistan is one of the most flood-prone countries in South Asia. River-related floods occur mostly in the Indus River basin and broadly inundate floodplains along the major rivers. They have caused extreme damage almost annually, especially to agriculture and livestock.
- The 2010 flood affected most of the country, caused approximately US\$9.7 billion in damages, displaced more than 20 million people, and killed more than 1,700 people.
- Arid regions experience droughts lasting over 2 or 3 years every decade. Droughts were so severe in 2000 and 2002 that livelihoods were destroyed, 3.3 million people were affected, 15 million cattle died and economic losses reached US\$2.5 billion.
- The Hindu Kush, Karakorum and Koh-e-Suleiman mountain ranges are particularly susceptible to earthquakes and the resulting devastation can be immense due to the low quake resilience of buildings.
- While cyclones are rare in the Arabian sea, the low-lying coastal belts may suffer significant damages from the occasional cyclone.
- Due to young geology, fragile soil type, accelerated deforestation, cultivation and construction, the regions of Kashmir, the Northern Areas and parts of the North-West Frontier Province are highly exposed to landslides.

Disaster Management System

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at the federal level is facilitating Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) and District Disaster Management Units (DDMUs). This system's mission is to improve institutional capacities for disaster preparedness, response and recovery and to integrate DRR into all levels of development planning.

National Level

- **National Disaster Management Commission (NDMC)**

Headed by the Prime Minister, the NDMC is the highest policy and decision-making body for disaster risk management. It is mandated to formulate policies and develop guidelines on disaster risk management (DRM); approve DRM plans

developed by Ministries or Divisions of the Federal Government; arrange and oversee funds; and assist other countries affected by major disasters.

- **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**

The NDMA is the focal point and coordinating body to facilitate the implementation of disaster risk management strategies. It is responsible for preparing the National DRM plan and laying down guidelines for preparing DRM plans by relevant government agencies; implementing the National Policy; providing technical assistance to PDMA; preparing provincial DRM Plans; coordinating disaster response; and awareness-raising.

Sub-National Level

- **Provincial Disaster Management Commission (PDMC)**

Chaired by the Chief Minister, the PDMC is mandated to implement provincial and regional DRM policies and approve and review provincial plans; ensure the integration of DRR in development plans; oversee the provision of funds for DRR and preparedness; and review mitigation, capacity-building and preparedness measures undertaken by departments of the Provincial Government.

- **Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA)**

The PDMA is responsible for formulating and implementing provincial DRM policies and plans; coordinating and monitoring the National Policy, National Plan and Provincial Plan; undertaking vulnerability assessments in the Province and recommending prevention and mitigation measures; coordinating and leading disaster response; awareness-raising; providing technical assistance to District and Local Authorities; and examining construction standards and communication systems.

- **District Disaster Management Unit (DDMU)**

The DDMU undertakes similar activities to the PDMA and sets up, maintains, reviews and upgrades district-level early warning systems and information dissemination; identifies relief centers; establishes stockpiles of relief and rescue materials; and encourages the involvement of NGOs and voluntary organizations in disaster management.

Helpful Links and Sources

Pakistan Country Profile:

<https://data.worldbank.org/country/pakistan>

Disaster Risk Management Handbook:

https://www.preventionweb.net/files/32968_32968buildingresiliencebylearningth.pdf

Pakistan Disaster Risk Profile:

http://www.climate-insurance.org/fileadmin/mcii/pdf/201406_CDKN_Pakistan_MCII_Report_16_Pakistan_RiskProfile.pdf

National Disaster Management Authority website:

<http://www.ndma.gov.pk/>

INFORM risk rating:

<http://www.inform-index.org/countries/country-profiles>