

Strengthening Climate Adaptation and Resilience (SAR)

Building Pakistan's Climate Resilience

The Challenge

Pakistan is one of the countries most affected by climate change due to its low adaptive capacity and poor infrastructure. It is ranked the 8th most affected country in the world as per the Germanwatch's Long-Term Climate Risk Index (2000-2019) report. According to the World Bank, between 1992 and 2021, climate- and weather-related disasters in Pakistan resulted in a total of around 27 billion EUR of economic losses (inflation-adjusted to 2021 US dollars) from damage to property, crops, and livestock, equivalent to 11.1% of 2020 GDP. Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of these events as well as exacerbate the vulnerability of local populations. Estimates show that more than 21 million people could fall into poverty by 2050 if Pakistan does not take measures to adapt to climate change. Additionally, the technical and financial capacity of the public institutions and that of communities to respond to climate change consequences is low.

Our Approach

The project supports the Government of Pakistan in enhancing climate adaptation, resilience, and risk management. The SAR project supports the entire climate adaptation cycle, from risk assessments to financing and local implementation, with international climate finance for scaling up. It aligns with Pakistan 2025: One Nation - One Vision, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and the Global Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Partnership. Specifically, the project supports the government in three areas:

- Climate Risk Assessments
- Planning and Financing Climate Adaptation
- Accessing International Climate Finance

Project name	Strengthening Climate Adaptation and Resilience (SAR)
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Pakistan, South Asia
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC)
Duration	12.2021 – 10.2025

Achievements of 2022-24

- SAR has launched **1** national Climate Risk Profile and **2** sub-national climate risk profiles for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab with political partners. **10** Climate Risk Assessments (CRAs) have been conducted in key sectors including agriculture, water, health, ecosystems, and infrastructure. The risk profiles were further utilised to develop **4** Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs) in KP and Punjab which have been endorsed by the respective local governments. Furthermore, the findings of the gender-sensitive CRAs will be incorporated into **7** sub-national policy documents. Additionally, the Climate Transparency Project aims to improve monitoring, reporting, and evaluation of climate change impacts.
- SAR has developed **5** climate risk training and awareness concepts for rural communities in southern Punjab and KP, including climate-smart agricultural practices for women. **4** training workshops for climate youth forums and **20** climate school clubs have engaged over **5000** students in climate resilience activities.
- **6** courses on climate change, developed with the Universities of Kassel and Potsdam, are being launched. These courses, shaped by stakeholder workshops with **84** higher education professionals and researchers, address critical gaps and emerging climate issues in Pakistan's curriculum.



Pg. 1, Left: Government partners at the launch of national and provincial Climate Risk Profiles.

Right: Women helping climate smart agricultural practices in southern Punjab.



Nicolai Dellmann
nicolai.dellmann@giz.de

Pg. 2, Left: Climate finance training for government stakeholders organised in collaboration with joyn-coop.

Right: Launch of the landmark Climate Change Cell of KP Planning and Development department, supported by BMZ.

- A resource book on climate change has been developed, in collaboration with the Centre for Excellence in Journalism at the Institute of Business Administration (CEJ-IBA), for journalists across Pakistan. Following this, **24** journalists (including **11** women) from KP and Punjab were trained on climate reporting, with **4** Climate Reporting Awards presented to those who produced exceptional and impactful stories.

- SAR is supporting partner institutions in KP and Punjab to strengthen planning, financing, and risk management capacities for climate adaptation and resilience. Collaboration with provincial Planning and Development Departments has integrated climate risks into planning and budgeting processes. Efforts focus on enhancing provincial capacities to include climate change indicators effectively. A landmark Climate Change Cell has been set up in KP at the Planning and Development Department.

- SAR is building the capacities of officials responsible for reviewing public projects through trainings, provided by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), aimed at enhancing the quality of project planning and execution. **39** government officials have been trained on various climate-related modules, including climate science, mainstreaming, and climate finance. Additionally, initiatives led by UN Capital Development Fund-LoCAL are integrating climate adaptation measures into local planning processes, benefiting communities.

- SAR supported the development of climate change specialists by creating and delivering a contemporary **1-year** climate change diploma course supported by the IM Sciences Center for Water Informatics and Climate Resilience (CWC). A total of **54** participants, including **30** government officials have benefited from the first cohort of the diploma course.

- The project has been pivotal in assisting the government to improve access to international climate finance for adaptation, resilience, and risk management measures. It focused on enhancing the capacities of partner institutions and individuals in navigating international adaptation finance, understanding donor requirements, and developing concrete project proposals. The project facilitated inter-provincial learning, contributing to national

policy processes. SAR has improved capacities of over **90** decision-makers and experts for accessing climate finance. Additionally, **5** gender-sensitive funding applications confirmed by the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) have been submitted: **4** to the Green Climate Fund and **1** to the Adaptation Fund.

- SAR's Adaptation Challenge Fund (ACF) called for proposals from social businesses and local organisations to support innovative financial instruments for climate adaptation to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities. **3** projects were shortlisted due to high local interest in empowering climate actors to develop and test creative climate resilience solutions. In Chitral, KP, the Karakoram Area Development Organisation (KADO), with Jazz Mosafir, is increasing farmers' resilience through advanced technology, training, and Index-Based Community Climate Insurance. In Nowshera, KP, Rural Aid, in consortium with MS Worldwide, is using drones for geospatial sensing and climate-smart agricultural training, coupled with low-interest microfinance, to help small-scale farmers. In Muzaffargarh, South Punjab, PRSP is supporting **251** underprivileged households with interest-free loans and climate-resilient training. These initiatives collectively enhance community resilience and provide financial protection against climate risks.

- The Pakistan Climate Information Portal (www.pakcip.com) serves as a centralised hub for climate data, tools, and courses, supporting informed decision-making by policymakers and stakeholders. It enhances public awareness, empowering communities in climate adaptation efforts, and strengthens Pakistan's capacity for sustainable climate resilience through improved risk assessment and resource planning.



Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
GIZ Country Office, Level 2, Serena Business Complex, Khayaban-e-Suhrawardy, Sector G-5/1, Islamabad, Pakistan
Phone +92 51 111 489 725
www.giz.de
As at December 2024
Design Faiza Batool, Communication Advisor

Photo credits GIZ Pakistan
Responsible Nicolai Dellmann, Project Head
GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.
On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Division 2B00 Pakistan, Afghanistan