

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

A Call for Localised Flood Response in Pakistan

The devastation caused by this year's monsoon floods is once again a grim reminder of Pakistan's deep vulnerability to climate disasters. According to the National Disaster Management Authority's *Monsoon 2025 Situation Report No. 63*, the floods between 26 June and 27 August have already claimed 805 lives, including 203 children, and left more than 1,100 people injured. Nearly 8,000 households have been destroyed or partially damaged, over 650 kilometres of roads washed away, 238 bridges collapsed, and 5,587 livestock lost. Punjab's Gujranwala, Narowal, Kasur, Lahore, and Sheikhupura districts have borne the brunt, while Abbottabad in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has also been severely affected. The threat is far from over: floodwaters from the Ravi, Sutlej, and Jhelum would have reached Panjnad by now, while forecasts of heavy rainfall raise fears of worsening conditions in both Punjab and Sindh.

At this critical juncture, the demand for relief far outweighs the government's capacity. While NDMA and provincial authorities are struggling to respond, it is evident that the scale of the crisis requires stronger international support. The Indus Consortium has rightly urged the global community to step up, but not through the traditional routes that sideline those closest to the ground.

Local civil society organisations, NGOs, and rights-based groups are not only embedded within the affected communities but also understand the cultural, social, and economic nuances of disaster-hit populations. Yet, funding flows predominantly through international NGOs, leaving local actors as subcontractors rather than equal partners. This imbalance weakens the effectiveness of aid and undermines accountability. What Pakistan needs is a shift towards a community-led and locally anchored humanitarian response.

Donor agencies must therefore re-examine their strategies. Funding calls should be opened directly to Pakistani NGOs rather than being restricted to international actors. Local organisations must be allowed to compete fairly for resources and be included as co-applicants, not passive recipients, in projects designed and executed by INGOs. Such measures would ensure not only a more transparent use of funds but also strengthen resilience and ownership within disaster-hit communities.

The Istanbul Declaration of 2016 called for exactly this kind of localisation. The catastrophe unfolding in Pakistan today is a test of whether the international community is willing to honour that commitment. For the thousands of families stranded, injured, or bereaved, this is not just about aid — it is about survival, dignity, and justice.

Youth Urged to Lead Energy Justice Transition



Indus Consortium hosted the 3rd National Climate Justice Youth Film Festival 2025 in Islamabad, showcasing the perspectives of students from across Pakistan through the medium of film.

Held at a local hotel, the event brought together parliamentarians, civil society representatives, academics, diplomats, and climate activists. Now in its third year, the festival focused on the theme "Unplugging Inequality: Youth Demanding Energy Justice."

Senator Sherry Rehman, Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, was the chief guest. She was joined by Senator Poonjo Mal Bheel, Member of the Senate Standing Committee on Power.

In a hard-hitting speech, Senator Rehman criticised developed nations for fuelling climate change, reminding the audience that Pakistan contributes less than one per cent of global carbon emissions yet suffers disproportionately. She called climate change a global crisis created by industrialised nations, but devastating for vulnerable countries like Pakistan.

Crop burning, brick kilns, and unchecked urban development are killing our people, she said. Referring to the 2022 floods that submerged one-third of the country and the recent disasters across 63 districts, she described the situation as "climate injustice" while pointing out that \$7 trillion continues to be funnelled into fossil fuel subsidies worldwide.

Rehman warned that record-breaking heatwaves, rising seas, and deforestation were threatening Pakistan's agriculture, livestock, and human survival. She urged urgent domestic action through forest expansion, regulated urban growth, support for low-plastic start-ups, and embracing renewable energy.

Senator Poonjo Mal Bheel congratulated the organisers for providing a platform for young people to highlight energy justice through documentaries. Citing Thar's power shortages of up to 18 hours a day, he said: "In today's world, electricity is a basic human right. Without it, our youth cannot study, work, or participate in e-business. If clean, affordable energy is not provided, they will be left with no choice but to rely on scarce government jobs."

Students from six universities across Pakistan took part, with the University of Balochistan Quetta, University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar, and Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi winning the first three prizes. Other participant universities included University of Sindh Jamshoro, Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam, and Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture Multan.

Indus Consortium Chairman Liaquat Ali welcomed participants, stressing that Pakistan's exposure to heatwaves, droughts, and flash floods demanded urgent investment in renewable energy, ecosystem restoration, and green financing.

The festival also included music performances by students.

Indus Consortium, Members Step Up Flood Response



Indus Consortium and its partner organisations have mobilised swift humanitarian support in response to the devastating floods of 2025.

According to the Consortium, its partners – Doaba Foundation, Help Foundation and LHDP – have jointly issued a Flood Situation Report to provide accurate updates on the evolving crisis. Meanwhile, members of the Grow Green Network are actively working in 20 districts across Punjab and Sindh.

The groups are not only providing timely and reliable information to flood-affected communities but are also engaged in delivering critical humanitarian assistance. Their efforts aim to ensure that vulnerable households receive both immediate relief and early recovery support as floodwaters continue to impact large areas.

Indus Consortium emphasised that local networks and grassroots partners remain central to delivering aid effectively, particularly in remote regions where access remains a major challenge.