



REPORT

National Consultative Workshop on Drought

18 January 2019
Islamabad



Acronyms & Abbreviations:

ADB- Asian Development Bank

AusAID- The Australian Agency for International Development

DFID- Department for International Development

ICIMOD- The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

IDB- Islamic Development Bank

FAO- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

IOM- International Organization for Migration

INGO- International Non-Governmental Organization

JICA- Japan International Cooperation Agency

KSHARC- King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Aid

NDC- Natural Disaster Consortium

NDMA- National Disaster Management Authority

NGO- Non-Governmental Organization

NHN- National Humanitarian Network

NHEPREN- National Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Network

PARC- Pakistan Agricultural Research Council

PDMA- Provincial Disaster Management Authority

PHF- Pakistan Humanitarian Forum

PMD- Pakistan Meteorological Department

SUPARCO- Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission

UNDP- United Nations Development Programme

UNFPA- United Nations Population Fund

UNICEF- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

UNOCHA- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

UNRC- United Nations Resident Coordinator

UN-Women-The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

USAID- United States Agency for International Development

WHO- World Health Organisation

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1. **Executive Summary.** Available data indicates that Pakistan has witnessed an upsurge in the frequency and severity of drought due to rise in temperatures, the adverse effects of El Nino and decrease in the amount of rainfall during monsoon season. In 2018, Pakistan received 24.4 per cent less rainfall during the monsoon season (May to August), while Sindh was 69.5 per cent below average and Balochistan 45 per cent below. Sindh faces moderate to severe drought conditions in 8 districts while Balochistan faces the same in 18 districts. As per Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), severe drought-like conditions have emerged over most of the southern parts of Pakistan due to a lack of summer rain, with an expectation that the situation will continue to deteriorate over the next 4 years due to climate change.
2. The climate change phenomenon is one of the factors for current onset of the drought conditions since late 2013. The coastal areas, Balochistan Arid zones, Eastern Sindh, Koh-e-Suleiman and Kirthar Ranges and South Punjab are mostly vulnerable to drought. The intensity and frequency of such phenomenon is likely to increase in the recent years, Pakistan has experienced an increase in the frequency and severity of drought due rise in temperatures, adverse effects of El Nino and decrease on the amount of rainfall during monsoon season. Drought phenomenon tends to occur in the country in 16-20 years cycle with a lesser impact version, every 3-4 years in the south. PMD's apprehension is that the situation in the coming years will worsen more mainly under the impact of climate change which has already seen a reduction on the percentage of rainfall in the country during the last three to four years.
3. It is therefore imperative to ensure a well-coordinated national strategy which should include effective early warning systems and monitoring to deliver timely information to decision makers, effective impact assessment procedures, pro-active risk management measures, preparedness plans aimed at increasing the coping capacity, and effective emergency response programmes directed at reducing the impacts of drought.
4. NDMA envisions a more coherent engagement with various stakeholders to ensure effective cooperation and coordination at all levels of Governments to increase their capacity to cope with drought effects. This approach is directed at improving the resilience and coping capacity of the Government and communities to handle drought.

NDMA together with PDMA Sindh started consultation process in October 2018 in Karachi.

5. The National Consultative Workshop was convened to facilitate Government of Pakistan and other stakeholders to have an overview of drought trends, intensity, develop a better understanding of the situation. The event brought together Federal Ministries/ Divisions/Departments, Provincial line Departments, PDMA's, Politician, Dignitaries, Ambassadors, UN, INGOs, NGOs, Donors, Academia, Researchers and Development Practitioners to adopt a coordinated approach in the development of an all-inclusive National Drought Strategy based on short, medium and long-term action plans with the aim to address the suffering of drought affected people.

6. This is the first step towards a positive journey in ensuring that no one is left behind and NDMA will continue to engage with all stakeholders at various levels and forums for mitigating the impacts of droughts and in the development of a coherent strategy on drought for the whole country.

7. **Opening Remarks.** Chairman NDMA, Lt Gen Omar Mahmood Hayat HI (M) acknowledged the presence of dignitaries and welcomed the participants to the National Consultative Workshop on Drought. He emphasised on the objectives of workshop and laid the ground for an open discussion to examine the extent and dimensions of adverse effects of drought on various sectors especially Food Security & Agriculture, Livestock, WaSH, Health and Nutrition and Livelihood in drought hit areas of Pakistan.

8. He stated that it is imperative to adopt a holistic approach aimed at addressing the drought effects within the short, medium and long-term interventions. He reached out to all the relevant Government Departments and stakeholders to work together for effective drought management based on result oriented corrective measures to lessen the sufferings of vulnerable population of drought hit districts.

9. United Nations Resident Coordinator for Pakistan, Neil Buhne appreciated NDMA for organizing the event to tackle the drought effects in the country. He reiterated on the need for all stakeholders to work together through multi-sector integrated planning to address the immediate needs and mitigate the long-term impacts. He noted the positive efforts that Pakistan had made through concerted efforts in tackling polio threat and the same model can be adopted to address negative impacts of drought based on the right

prioritization and programming with the support of partners. He assured the Government of continued support from the UN and its partners to ensure no one is left behind in all aspects.

10. The Honorable Deputy Chairman, Senate Mr. Saleem Mandviwalla graced the opening session as the Chief Guest of National Consultative Workshop on Drought and stated that drought is not a new phenomenon to the country with the current situation having adverse effects on all sectors especially nutrition and health. There are fears that if the situation is not addressed immediately, then the number of people being affected could increase. Therefore, the situation requires immediate response with the short and long-term interventions. The on-going response by the respective Disaster Management Authorities in the affected provinces needs to be scaled up and extend the outreach to all affected communities. He suggested that Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) modal could also be followed for any cash based intervention in the drought hit areas. He applauded NDMA for organizing the workshop which will go a long way to ensure that effective measures are adopted to address the recurring drought. He expressed his full support to combat this silent disaster which has caused distressed to a large population.

11. **Drought Overview.** Member (Operation) NDMA, Brigadier Mukhtar Ahmad, presented a drought overview that Pakistan's geographic as well as climatic conditions makes it vulnerable to the effects of climate change which PMD predicts is likely to increase in the coming years. The coastal areas, Balochistan Arid zones, Eastern Sindh, Koh-e-Suleiman and Kirthar Ranges and South Punjab are mostly vulnerable to drought. He informed that drought is one of the gravest ecological threats that Pakistan is facing at present. It is not a new encounter to the country and the worst effects of drought were felt between 1999-2001 which affected 58 districts across the country and impacted the lives of 3 million people, 2.5 million livestock perished resulting into US\$1.2 billion losses for the country.

12. Member (Operations) highlighted that existing data indicates that Pakistan has witnessed an upsurge in the frequency and severity of drought due to a rise in temperatures, the adverse effects of El Nino and the decrease in the rainfall during monsoon season. As per PMD, the country received 24.4 per cent less rainfall during the

monsoon season (May to August), while Sindh was 69.5 per cent below average, and Balochistan 45 per cent below.

13. Member Operations informed that based on the available data, PMD issued three alerts between June to December 2018 of moderate to severe drought conditions in 8 districts of Sindh and 18 districts of Balochistan. The estimates shows that approximately 0.42 million families are affected in 8 x districts of Sindh and 0.28 million families are affected in 18 x districts of Balochistan. The Government of Sindh declared 8 districts as calamity hit areas and initiated response by distributing wheat grains to assist with the food security to the affected population. Moreover, family ration bags to Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) in District Tharparkar and Umerkot. NDMA on the direction of the Honourable President of Pakistan is submitting a detailed report of the relief activities being carried out by the PDMA Sindh and Balochistan.

14. Senator, Mr. Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti and Mr. Ziaullah Langove, Minister for Home & Tribal Affairs & PDMA Balochistan while representing Balochistan stressed the need for urgent Federal interventions to avert mass migration from severely affected areas.

15. Session 1- Panel Discussion and Recommendations (Strategic Pathways and Technical Engagement):

(Panelist: D.G, Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Mr. Muhammad Riaz, Head of Climate Department, Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC) Mr. Shahbaz Mehmood, Director General, Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) Mr. Amir Imran, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) Dr. Ghulam Rasool, Principle Scientific Officer, Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) Dr. Bashir Ahmed and DG. National Health Emergency Preparedness & Response Network (NHEPRN) Mr. Naseer Mohiuddin).

15. Director General, PMD gave a brief on the current rainfall statistics for Pakistan especially for Sindh and Balochistan. He stated that droughts cannot be prevented but actions can be taken for better preparation by developing more resilient ecosystems and communities to mitigate the impacts of droughts. Based on the weather system approaches, recurrence of drought will be expected in the future. It is therefore imperative for different departments to put in place effective and permanent measures to address the drought impacts across the affected sectors. He also highlighted on the need to undertake frequent monitoring, water management, desalination, cloud seeding etc. as

some key areas that the government can focus on to improve the situation and alleviate the impacts of drought. He stated that all three drought alerts were issued by PMD based on the satellite and observation data analysis.

16. Principle Scientific Officer stated that PARC is the apex National Organization working in close collaboration with other Federal and Provincial Institutions to provide science-based solutions to agriculture in Pakistan. It engages in research on the development of heat and drought resistant crop varieties, arid horticulture crops, soil and water conservation and management, desalination of brackish water, kitchen gardening, bio-saline agriculture/agro forestry etc. He assured that PARC will continue to work and coordinate with all relevant departments and stakeholders for maximum usage of the already developed weather resistant crops and other techniques in addressing drought situation.

17. PARC highlighted the use of research to mitigate and overcome drought impacts in the affected provinces with the results aimed at tailoring response based on the needs of identified sectors. While drought is a universal problem, solutions to the problem are region-and location-specific. Thus, research must address local needs and build on existing indigenous mechanisms.

18. ICIMOD is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing center serving the eight regional member countries i.e. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan. In Pakistan, ICIMOD has been emphasizing the importance of research to support future programme advancement¹.

19. Provision of support on drought to the member countries is one of the key functions of ICIMOD. The programmes are always integrated to meet the multifaceted aspects of transformation. Drought remains a recurring phenomenon in Pakistan and use of early warning systems and effective monitoring can be used to formulate response. Use of technology e.g. creation of artificial rains can be explored for purposes of providing immediate relief while winter clouds technique can also be explored. Most importantly, it will be ideal for the government to establish permanent centers in Sindh and Balochistan

¹ ICIMOD provides support to Pakistan in terms of capacity building, strengthening institutional capacity, research and demonstrations and providing regional and international platforms.

to enhance response capacity as well as ensuring regular engagement with local communities on the use of new techniques.

20. Integrated approaches that have been proposed by World Meteorological Organization (WMO) include:

- a. Promoting standard approaches to vulnerability and impact assessment
- b. Implementing effective drought monitoring and early warning systems
- c. Enhancing preparedness and mitigation actions etc.

21. Director General, SUPARCO², highlighted various activities that the agency can undertake to facilitate the response. Some of the key areas that SUPARCO can undertake include conducting of assessments via satellite, mapping and environmental monitoring. Scientific methods can be used in addressing drought issues. D.G assured that SUPARCO is ready and committed to join hands with all relevant departments in the formulation of a National Drought Strategy.

22. While contributing to the drought discourse, the Executive Director, Global Change Impact Studies Centre³ informed that Centre is dedicated for research on climate change studies in Pakistan. He indicated that the drought in Pakistan should be looked at from the lens of climate change. Drought is a complex natural hazard and the impacts associated with it are the result of numerous climatic factors and a wide range of societal factors that define the level of societal resilience. He shared the findings of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change whereby, frequency of drought is likely to increase globally. Due to the geographical situation of the two provinces in addition to them being semi-arid zones, these combined factors necessitate for a holistic strategy for the whole country as the effects of drought can manifest beyond the current provinces due to climate change.

23. Director General, NHEPRN pointed out the adverse effects of drought thus affecting water quality, rise in temperatures, compromised food and nutrition qualities, economic difficulties, prevalence of respiratory and Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDs). In all the aspects, women, children and senior citizens are in most cases

² SUPARCO is mandated to conduct R&D in space science, space technology, and their peaceful applications in the country. It works towards developing indigenous capabilities in space technology and promoting space applications for socio-economic uplift of the country.

³ The Centre is mandated for national level R&D effort, capacity building, policy analysis, information dissemination and assistance to national planners and policymakers on issues related to past and projected future climatic changes, likely impacts on the key socio-economic sectors of the country such as water, food, agriculture, energy, forestry, health, and ecology, and appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures.

adversely impacted. The government should opt various options including use and increase of mobile clinic units and invest on enhancing staff capacity through training.

24. All the panelists and participants highlighted the dire need to fully and more aggressively engage with stakeholders in response plans to mitigate the impacts of droughts and also contribute in the drought mitigation strategy and appreciated the effort being made by NDMA towards this goal.

16. **Presentation by National Disaster Consortium and Propositions from the Plenary Discussion.** The National Disaster Consortium (NDC) led by International Organization for Migration (IOM) in collaboration with FAO, UNICEF, HANDS and ACTED conducted an assessment in Sindh in November 2018. The key objectives were:

- a. To assess the impact of the drought on agriculture (crop cultivation, production, water availability and livestock), livelihoods and food security, access to water and sanitation and hygiene practices of the households and communities.
- b. To provide recommendations to the Government of Sindh, NDC partners, and other decision/policy makers to prioritize actions (short, medium and long term) in relevant sectors and geographic areas to address immediate needs, build back better and increase future resilience to drought.

17. During the workshop representative of FAO and IOM presented the main findings of the assessment carried out by Natural Disaster Consortium (NDC). The detailed report has been endorsed by Sindh PDMA which includes recommendations for each sector mentioned above.

18. NDC is also undertaking a similar exercise in 14 districts of Balochistan (Pishin, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Kachhi (Bolan), Dera Bugti, Jhal Magsi, Nushki, Chagai, Kharan, Washuk, Awaran, Panjgur, Kech (Turbat) and Gwadar districts). The assessment has been completed and preliminary findings of the Balochistan assessment will be ready in 3rd week of February 2019.

19. The findings of NDC assessment ignited open discussion from the participants who gave their views underpinning the vital recommendations that can facilitate development of a national strategy:

20. Key Actions Points from the Participants:

- a. Development of a national drought policy at the Federal level.
- b. Developing a strategic plan for the whole country with clear roles and expectations within the three phases of response, pre, during and after disaster.
- c. Use of technology especially mobile applications for outreach and information sharing to enhance public participation and support.
- d. Increase and expansion of off farm and on farm livelihood opportunities within the affected districts.
- e. Integrated approach that encompasses tackling of issues jointly i.e.
 - (1) Formulation of comprehensive policy framework at both National, Provincial and Regional levels to take preventive action against droughts;
 - (2) Multi-disciplinary and scientific inputs to be included while developing policies and strategies whereby water, land, agriculture and ecosystem issues are tackled jointly;
 - (3) A National and regional framework for drought monitoring, early warning and response;
 - (4) A risk-based approach to drought management;
 - (5) Stakeholders' participation in policy development and its implementation through advocacy and public awareness.
- f. Use of innovative technology options e.g. generator for artificial rain creation
- g. Seasonal livelihood planning that captures lessons learned during good and bad seasons and using technical as well as indigenous knowledge to address impact of drought.
- h. Emergency nutrition interventions within the short-medium and long-term for sustainability.
- i. Use of cash for relief within the short-term phase.
- j. Activation of thematic working groups at Provincial and National level to enhance coordination and collaboration between government departments and stakeholders.

- k. Timely dissemination of improved seeds to the provinces.
- l. Development of destocking policies to safeguard livelihoods.
- m. Broader engagement on the issue from other provinces with a view to elicit support.
- n. Effective and comprehensive policy on water resource management.
- o. Disaster risk financing strategies should be explored for long term risk reduction
- p. Provision of integrated primary health care services with focused approach on key areas like Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH) integrated with nutrition and WASH;
- q. Establish Neonatal intensive care units at strategic locations including hospitals;
- r. Mental health and psychological support activities;
- s. Gender and protection need to be mainstreamed in all components of strategic and operational planning.

21. While closing the discussion, the Chairman NDMA emphasized that disaster management is a devolved subject and the scale is normally beyond the scope of one agency or organization to manage. He applauded Sindh and Balochistan PDMA's on the work they have done and developed key recommendations on the way forward.

22. The Chairman stated that NDMA is currently engaged with World Bank on the development of a national disaster information management system with the objective of ensuring management and early dissemination of disaster related information in the future. He highlighted the existing gaps and assured that the Federal Government will look at ways of raising finances by involving international organizations and donors.

23. He proposed the immediate activation of coordination mechanisms both at the National and Provincial levels for response and coordination. On the issue of accessibility, he assured the participants for full support and facilitation from NDMA.

24. **Session 2-Panel Discussion (Taking the Drought Agenda Forward)**

(Panelists: Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Engr. Ali Muhammad Khan, Minister of State for Climate Change, Ms. Zartaj Gul, Senator Ms. Keshoo Bai, Senator Engr. Gian Chand, MNA Ms. Aliya Kamran, United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) Mr. Neil Buhne, Head of Humanitarian

and Resilience DFID Ms. Helen O'Connor, Deputy Head of Mission, Australian High commission in Pakistan Mr. Brek Bately, and Programme Lead World Bank Mr. Lixin Gu)

25. Head of Humanitarian and Resilience DFID stated that Government of UK through its Department for International Development (DFID) remains focused in providing support to the Government and people of Pakistan through its two key programme areas i.e. humanitarian and resilience programme. The humanitarian programme which has been implemented through DFID partners and government counterparts, covers drought aspects. DFID supported the NDC in undertaking assessment in Sindh. Most of the interventions have been done through local partners thus enabling the planned activities to reach the most deserving families who are living in hard to reach areas. DFID has also been working on slow onset emergencies like drought through data gathering to enable early actions. UK government will continue to provide support to Sindh and Balochistan based on a detailed report.

26. Programme Lead, World Bank underscored the need for Pakistan to develop comprehensive water management policies. The reality is that the growth of Pakistan is based on availability of water which is essentially becoming scarce due to climate change and various factors within the region. It will be good for Pakistan to learn from some of the countries in the world that have put in place good management frameworks e.g. Australia. In addition, enhanced irrigation techniques, agricultural practices, water recycling and cultural behavioral shift would facilitate disaster mitigation.

27. The representative of Australian High Commission, made reference to the drought situation in Australia which has taken significant investment by the government to tackle. The major focus centered on adopting policies relating to water resource management and conservation that are suitable for the changing climatic conditions. The cornerstone towards the development of a comprehensive strategy is to ensure an inclusive participation of all stakeholders including the affected communities. Addressing issues such as land use, comparison of rainfall patterns and use of innovative techniques positively contributes to the mitigation of adverse effects of drought.

28. The most viable option is to have a strategy that addresses all the pertinent components e.g. water management through integrated planning and conservation, review of existing water treaties, investing in data management, for sustainable and

innovative solutions including a review on the type of crops, irrigation methods etc. Most importantly, the component of an effective coordination system between the different government departments including civil-military coordination and engagement of civil societies are all precursor to the development of a good strategy. He noted that most of the UN agencies are already engaged with the government in one way or another and that should be strengthened. For a better support, it is imperative for the government to develop a clear response plan that includes the nature of support required. Pakistan can make reference to the model that Australia adopted to facilitate the development of a national strategy.

29. UN Resident Coordinator for Pakistan accentuated the challenges that drought brings noting that the effects normally cut across almost all aspects of human lives and human development. The scourge of drought is beyond the capacity of one agency or organization as such humanitarian and development partners will continue to augment the ongoing interventions initiated by the government in addressing the relief needs and collaborate with all stakeholders to put measures in place to achieve long-term solutions.

30. The drought response should be looked at from three perspectives of short-medium and long-term. The short-term measures should include mapping on the coping mechanisms of local people, provision of relief assistance which should entail mapping of resources and gaps. Under the medium phase, analysis on the strength and capacities of stakeholders and communities should be undertaken to inform responses while the long-term phase should look at the endemic causes with correlating actions e.g. use of drought resistant crops, water management, social safety nets and use of integrated approaches. In addition, the line departments and regional disaster management authorities should be strengthened to perform effectively and facilitate partners.

31. Ms. Zartaj Gul, Minister of State for Climate Change pointed out the stark reality that the impact of climate change poses to Pakistan and the world in general. She emphasized that solving drought challenges requires a multi-faceted approach which should comprise all stakeholders including the affected communities on coming up with viable solutions. There is a need to create public awareness through capacity-building. She noted that for the country to progress, there is need for the government to initiate long-term policies to mitigate the effects of natural disasters.

32. Engr. Ali Muhammad Khan, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs in his remarks stated that it is important to reach out to affected communities on urgent basis to alleviate their sufferings but it is also necessary to come up with long term solutions and creation of platforms that can contribute to lessen their miseries . He also assured all kind of support from Government in mitigating the impacts of droughts.

33. **Follow up Actions:**

- a. Activation of sectoral working groups comprising of all stakeholders at the national and provincial levels to coordinate the drought response.
- b. NDMA will ensure effective support and facilitation of partners to access and support the affected families.
- c. NDMA to organize follow up meetings and consultations (national and provincial) with all relevant stakeholders towards the development of a national drought strategy. This can be achieved through the creation of thematic working groups by reflecting on some of the ideas floated by participants.
- d. Endorsement of the NDC assessment report to facilitate response based on the recommendations.
- e. Reference to existing drought management practices from other countries e.g. Australia to facilitate the development of an integrated response mechanism.
- f. PDMA Balochistan and Sindh to develop the drought mitigation plans incorporating immediate, and long-term actions

34. **Session 3 - Closing Session.** Member (Operations), NDMA in his wrap up speech summarized the NCWD proceeding and informed the Chief Guest that consultative process which was started in October, 2018 has finally ending up with a reflection of strong political will, commitment, ownership and leadership of the relevant Government bodies and tremendous support by our humanitarian, development partners and donor community. He pointed out that “if there is a will there is a way” and today’s workshop strongly affirms that there is a strong will and commitment to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to address the issue and mitigate the impact of drought on vulnerable population.

35. In opening session, drought overview by NDMA and presentations from PDMA Sindh and Balochistan provided an insight to understand the historical perspective, current situation and tremendous ongoing response by the Government of Sindh and Baluchistan. The technical and scientific briefings by and useful discussion with PMD, GCISC, ICIMOD, PARC and NHEPRN provided a strategic direction to shape the discussion on operation and strategic planning.

36. Simultaneously, in plenary session, some most relevant questions and appropriate responses and recommendations have covered critical elements of the drought response planning and mitigation strategies. In the thematic discussion session, the forum thoroughly discussed the situation from policy, development and humanitarian perspective and elegantly came up with key recommendations on way forward.

37. The causes of malnutrition in the affected areas are multi-dimensional including abject poverty, lack of access to health facilities, unavailability of safe drinking water, high levels of illiteracy, lack of family planning, and above all the impact of climate change. Drought is a complex phenomenon, it needs multi-sector, integrated approach to focus on Health, Nutrition, Agriculture, Livestock, Water and Sanitation by involving Government authorities, research institutes, academia, humanitarian agencies, public works agencies and civil society organizations etc. at each administrative level. This is the only way to reduce and mitigate the adverse impact on vulnerable population. This consultative workshop enabled us to find out new ways of working and synchronizing the short term and long term planning to comprehensively address the immediate as well as permanent solution of the problem.

38. The Chairman, NDMA highlighted that the drought phenomena in Pakistan is because of the climate change across the region that requires concerted efforts to deal with. Addressing the impacts of drought or any type of disaster is normally beyond the scope of one organization or agency thus there is dire need of effective coordination and collaboration on all fronts.

39. He acknowledged the valuable contributions from all the participants, noting that all the suggestions will be assessed and made part of preparedness procedure for preparation of a broad-based drought mitigation strategy addressing key challenges within each of the respective sectors.

40. NDMA will continue to engage with all the stakeholders to move the drought mitigation agenda forward and ensure development of a National Drought Strategy for the whole country. He thanked all the dignitaries and participants for their valuable contributions and look forward for their support in the coming days. He emphasized on the need to activate the clusters for immediate response and coordination at the provincial as well as national level.

41. **The Chief Guest of Closing Session.** The Honourable President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi graced the closing session of one day National Consultative Workshop on Drought. The President said that shortage of water in the country is a severe issue and stressed the need for taking emergency steps to control the challenge by increasing water reservoirs and adopting sustainable steps for use and conservation of water. He said that Pakistan is amongst the countries confronted with scarcity of water issues and emphasized that an awareness campaign about the importance and conservation of water needs to be launched.

42. The President said that water issue in Balochistan has reached to an alarming stage and time has come to take emergency steps to resolve it. He said that special attention would have to be paid to control scarcity of water issues in Sindh and Balochistan where several areas are facing drought. President Alvi said the countries where facility of water storage is available, could confront the challenge of drought but added that Pakistan's water storage capacity is shrinking and stressed to remain vigilant in this regard.

43. He said it was also a matter of great concern that most of our usable water went into the sea while having no appropriate treatment, the natural resources of rivers and water were becoming polluted. Dr. Alvi called for making laws for conservation of water, its careful use and management are need of the hour. The President said that modern sources and techniques of irrigation would have to be adopted to avoid wastage of water. He said less water intensive crops should be introduced to save this precious commodity for other uses. The President said potential of rain water harvesting also needs to be explored.

44. The President assured that the Government will go to any extent to minimize the suffering of drought affected people across Pakistan, particularly in Sindh and

Balochistan. The President underscored the critical role played by NDMA in ensuring effective management of different disasters that affect the country. He stated that the consultative workshop is a good start and a platform to gather diverse ideas from experts having varied backgrounds.

45. He acknowledged the positive role that the UN and its partners, the donors had played in assisting the government on the response and urged all to continue their coordination and collaboration with the government in developing a response plan that will address the short, medium and long-term solutions to alleviate current and future impacts of drought.

46. References:

- a. Welcome Remarks-Chairman NDMA
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1oY6ArcoftJhqyEYyfgwKXBRM2YPA1Og>
- b. Speech by Deputy Chairman Senate on the Occasion of Inaugural Session of “National Consultative Workshop on Drought” 18 January 2019
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/a0h9s81wcbg2ov3/Speech%20by%20Cheif%20Guest%20-%20Inaugural%20Session.docx?dl=0>
- c. Remarks by United Nations Resident Coordinator-Neil Buhne
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AGnoPyRdxhxqz3vs6OQVPey0IECP_5e/view?usp=sharing
- d. The Drought Situation in Sindh & Balochistan - by Brig Mukhtar Ahmed.
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/j5mmd3ul9roh736/1.%20Presentation%20%20by%20Brig%20Mukhtar%20Ahmed.pdf?dl=0>
- e. Brief for The National Assembly – Drought Like Situation in Sindh And Balochistan
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/fbhr5eydz3ffn6a/BRIEF%20FOR%20THE%20PRESIDENT.docx?dl=0>
- f. NDC, PARC, PDMA Sindh and Balochistan presentations
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1v8k7Ts6lymD4TIGIWBqumwsxwaTOINkA>
- g. Drought in Australia - Context, policy and management
https://www.dropbox.com/s/zfmydb4b8a4yr02/GovAustr_drought_in_australia_2012.pdf?dl=0
- h. Conclusion & Wrap Up National Consultative Workshop on Drought
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/np4hxefyi39hikt/Conclusion%20%20%26%20Wrap%20Up%20By%20Member%20%28Ops%29.docx?dl=0>
- i. Closing Remarks-Chairman NDMA
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zW08kGTtOk7rOqrC1677mcqaW4eKRuj/view?usp=sharing>
- j. Speech by the President of Pakistan-Concluding Session
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DZTyoz06PWHd7zZRmsSILf77Tonv8Nf/view?usp=sharing>

47. Annexures:

Annex 1- Agenda Overview.

Annex 2-NCWD-Press Release

National Consultative Workshop on Drought 18 January, 2019, Islamabad

Time	Session	Activity By
09:00-09:30	Registration	All Participants
09:30-09:35	Recitation from the Holy Quran	-
09:35-09:45	Welcome Address	Lt Gen Omar Mahmood Hayat, HI (M) Chairman, NDMA
09:45-09:55	Remarks by UNRC	Mr. Neil Buhne
09:55 - 10:05	Drought Overview	Brig. Mukhtar Ahmad Member (Operations) NDMA
10:05-10:15	Drought Overview- Sindh	Syed Salman Shah Director General, PDMA Sindh
10:15-10:25	Drought Overview- Balochistan	Mr. Muhammad Tariq Director General, PDMA, Balochistan
10:25-10:35	Speech by Chief Guest	Mr. Saleem Mandviwalla Deputy Chairman, Senate
10:35-11:00	Group Photo - Networking - Coffee/Tea Break	
11:00-11:45	Panel discussion: Strategic Pathways and Technical Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director General, PMD, Islamabad • Executive Director, Global Change Impact Studies Centre, Islamabad • Director General SUPARCO, Islamabad • Dr. Ghulam Rasool, ICIMOD • Dr. Yusuf Zafar TI, PARC, Islamabad • D.G. NHEPREN 	
11:45 – 12:10	Presentation by NDC , findings from Drought Assessment Report -2018 in Sindh/Balochistan	
12:10 – 12:45	Open plenary – Collection of key recommendations (short and long term) mitigation plans and further additions from UN /Academia & Research, Humanitarian and Development partners. Chair: Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan , Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs.	
12:45 - 14:00	Lunch and Prayer Break	
14:00 -15:30	Panel discussion: Forward looking (Taking the drought agenda forward) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Zartaj Gul, Minister of State for Climate Change • Ms. Keshoo Bai, Senator & Engr. Gian Chand, Senator • Mr. Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti, Senator & Ms. Aliya Kamran, MNA • UN Resident Coordinator • Secretary/DG PDMA Sindh and Senior Member Board of Revenue/DG PDMA Balochistan • Donors (WB, DFID and AusAID etc. 	
Closing session		
15:30	Guests to be seated	
16:00	Arrival of the Chief Guest	
16:05	National Anthem	
16:10	Recitation from the Holy Quran	
16:15	Conclusion & wrap up	Brig. Mukhtar Ahmad Member (Operations) NDMA
16:25	Closing remarks	Lt Gen Omar Mahmood Hayat HI (M) Chairman, NDMA
16:35	Address by the Chief Guest	
Refreshment		
End of Day		

PRESS RELEASE

PRESIDENT GUARANTEES ALL OUT FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR DROUGHT MITIGATION

ISLAMABAD; 18th January: The President Dr. Arif Alvi guarantees that Federal Government will lend all possible support and assistance to the respective provincial governments for mitigating drought situation in Sindh and Balochistan. He stated this while addressing as chief guest at the closing session of one-day National Consultative Workshop on Drought organized by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) here on Friday.

The President has reiterated that present Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan was fully devoted to the welfare of the people of Pakistan. He assured that the government will go to any extent to minimize the sufferings of the drought affected people across Pakistan, particularly in Sindh and Balochistan. He said although disaster management was a devolved subject, however, he emphasized the fact that it was a shared responsibility and sacred national obligation of each and every citizen to join hands with government in managing and responding to disasters in an effective and efficient manner. He applauded the dynamic role of NDMA being led federal organization for disaster mitigation and said that this Consultative Workshop will prove a key initiative in forging an efficient and well-coordinated strategy to cope up with drought-like situation in parts of Sindh and Balochistan.

Lieutenant General Omar Mahmood Hayat, Chairman NDMA in his welcome address highlighted the aims and objective of the National Consultative Workshop on Drought. He sensitized the participants on sprawling effects of drought situation in Sindh and Balochistan and said NDMA has started consultative process to launching an effective response. "Today's event eventually culminated the Provincial Drought consultative process which NDMA started in October 2018 by organizing a seminar followed by meetings at Karachi on 30th and 31st October 2018." Chairman NDMA said, "The Consultative Workshop has enabled NDMA to grasp the ground reality and know exactly the extent and dimensions of the prevailing drought condition, its impacts on different sectors, relief provided so far and also helped us identify future needs."

Earlier in the day, Brigadier Mukhtar Ahmed, Member Operations, NDMA gave a detailed overview of the drought situation in Sindh and Balochistan. Director Generals of Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) of Sindh and Balochistan gave comprehensive presentations on the drought situation in their respective provinces. These presentations covered all details including districts and population affected by prevailing drought like situation, scale of vulnerability of households, adverse effects on agriculture and livestock and the details of the relief measures taken so far. They also shared future needs of resources in order to cope up with such situation over an extended period of time. Deputy Chairman Senate Mr. Salem Mandviwalla was the Chief Guest at the opening session of the Consultative Workshop.

The key objective of the National Consultative Workshop on Drought (NCWD) was to devise an all-inclusive and well-coordinated immediate response plan, work out extent and nature of possible support from UN Agencies and humanitarian actors; and to formulate comprehensive National Strategy based on short, medium- and long-term sector-wise mitigation measures. Two rounds of thematic panel discussions were part of the workshop where DRM experts and practitioners shared experiences and exchanged knowledge to derive lessons and devise effective remedial measures to cope up with the situation. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Eng. Ali Muhammad Khan chaired the Plenary Session, while Ms. Zartaj Gul, Minister of State for Climate Change presided over the Panel discussion.

The Workshop was attended by Senior Federal/Provincial Government Officials, Researchers, UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Neil Buhne, representative of UN Agencies, Ambassadors and Diplomats, Disaster Risk Management stakeholders, Philanthropists and Academia.
