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Nexus of Centralization and Disaster Vulnerability in Pakistan: A Study of Devolution Failure and Local Government Disempowerment

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Abstract

This paper investigates the nexus between political centralization, bureaucratic capture, and inadequate disaster preparedness and response mechanisms. Through a qualitative analysis of policy documents, administrative structures, and disaster management protocols, study validates the absence of functional local governance institutions pointedly aggravated flood damage across multiple provinces. The 2022 and 2025 floods caused massive damage to infrastructure, socioeconomic conditions, and lives. The flood in 2022 swamped almost one-third of Pakistan's land, affected 33 million people in Sindh and Balochistan, and over 6.9 million people across Punjab and Sindh in 2025. These floods disproportionately impacted vulnerable communities due to persistent systemic failures to respond to early warning dissemination, allocating and sharing resources, and response to crisis at local level. This paper explores how concentration of decision-making authorities at federal and provincial levels, coupled with limited or no financial autonomy of local bodies, has created a governance vacuum that challenges disaster resilience. The study determines that meaningful devolution of powers, strengthening of local governance institutions, and community-centric disaster management frameworks are essential for building resilient systems capable of mitigating risk of imminent natural calamities and adversities. The findings accentuate that effective governance requires institutional empowerment and citizens' participation rather than centralized command-and-control mechanisms.

Key Words: Local Governance, Disaster Management, Political Centralization, Pakistan Floods, Bureaucratic Capture, Institutional Fragility.

Introduction

Since 2010 Pakistan faces frequent natural and man-made disasters. Floods are one of the examples which has increased significant threats to life, property, and economy. Aftermaths of the devastating floods of 2022 and 2025 clearly demonstrate the inadequacy of current governance mechanisms to protect vulnerable populations. These disasters occurred not merely due to climatic causes beyond human control but, more critically, due to institutional failures rooted within Pakistan's centralized governance mechanism and structure.

Despite the passage of 18th constitutional amendment in 2010, provincial governments resisted sharing powers to local level and federal government also

maintained control over critical functions. Therefore, the implementation of this constitutional provision is in question due to not transferring powers and resources to local governments as mandated in the amendment, which remained incomplete and inconsistent. Establishing empowered local governments under Article 140-A, as third tier, was envisioned to bring decision-making closer to communities to improve local governance and enhance disaster preparedness. In the case of Pakistan, it is observed that during military regime local governments are considered instrumental for political legitimacy and used as a medium for development. On the contrary, when democratic governments are in power, local governments are either not created or remain financially constrained and administratively controlled by bureaucracy. The Local Government Ordinance 2001 provided foundations for an empowered and autonomous local government structure, which was rescinded in 2009, and local governments were in abeyance. Consequently, whenever disaster or floods strike, the response system is fragmented and relief efforts lack coordination due to non-existence of local government or weak governance system, and lack of disaster risk governance at local level. Local governments serve as the first responders during disasters and emergencies due to their proximity to the affected communities. This tier of government understands local vulnerabilities, needs, and resources needed, which makes them perfectly positioned to lead disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Regrettably, political governments persistently ignored and sidelined this tier and violating constitutional mandate resulted in the disaster mismanagement. This paper examines how the systematic disempowerment of local governments has conceded Pakistan's capacity to succeed disasters effectively by analyzing the 2022 and 2025 flood events. The paper recommends significance of establishing and empowering local governance structures to reduce human and economic costs of governance centralization, which is not only a matter of administrative efficiency but a prerequisite for disaster resilience.

Literature Review

Governance Centralization and Disaster Management

The empowerment of local governments for disaster risk governance at local level is vital for resilient development. The scholarship and various theoretical frameworks regarding devolution and governance rooted in public administration, and disaster management literature emphasize that immediate crisis response requires adaptive governance mechanism with decision-making authority dispersed to the lowest competent level as per the principle of subsidiarity (Tierney, 2012). Subsidiarity theories suggest that local governments, being closer to affected and vulnerable populations, are better positioned to assess local adversities and solutions, mobilize community resources, and instrumental to implement targeted interventions. Literature reveals that global best practices demonstrate that strengthening of local governance is essential for disaster management, for example improved local governance to deal with tsunamis in Indonesia, mitigated flood disasters through community led strategies and strengthening of local governments in Bangladesh, and community-led initiatives are cornerstone of effective disaster management in India. Though all levels of government involved in disaster management, but role and action of local government are critical. O'Leary writes (2007) "virtually all disasters are experienced at local level, where many communities can expect to be 'on their own' for the first seventy-two hours after disaster impact." Time sensitivity is critical because victims need quick response to rescue and relief, which is only possible through strong local governance system. Another perspective to understand natural disasters in terms of the issues arising

from globalization, technological development and consumer culture (Alexander, 2000). These factors intensely changed social and economic values due to new technologies and their effects on the vulnerabilities of natural disasters.

Conversely, centralized governance examples often display that national level disaster management create bottlenecks and disconnection from ground realities (Maskrey, 2011). In Myanmar, there is a failure of local governance due to a top-down approach which is unable to strengthen the local communities to deal with flood disasters. Consolidating the role of local governments with regards to disaster, Drabek and Hoetmer (1991) describe two key components, comprehensive and integrated emergency management. They defined that government takes steps comprehensively when it coordinates the four phases of emergency management including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. A government responds in integrated manners when it coordinates planning and designing strategic assessment of hazard, resource mobilization, and operations with other entities laterally and vertically.

Disaster management (Dixit et al., 2023) process is interlinked, mitigation is referred to as preparation before disaster, preparation is related to planning before the disaster to assess hazard and minimize damages and casualties. The response is related to techniques used after a disaster to address issues, and recovery is related to restoration after a disaster. The theory that contributed a lot to disaster management is related to resilience, which has a close relationship with local governance and disaster management. Resilience means learning adaptation through both positive and negative experiences (Fleming et al., 2008), which can be used to understand the traits of the communities and the capacity at the local level (Rappaport et al., 2018), it can also be used as policy by local government to deal with disasters (Wenger, 2017). Scholars like Lawrence et al. (2020) describe that the global frameworks have emphasized the importance of coordinated, inclusive, and anticipatory approaches to risk, implementation on the ground often remains siloed, reactive, and fragmented.

Research on disaster governance in developing nations indicates that institutional fragmentation where disaster management responsibilities are scattered across multiple agencies without clear coordination mechanisms significantly increases disaster impacts (Alexander, 2000). Pakistan's disaster management architecture exhibits precisely this fragmentation, with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at federal level, Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) at provincial level, and an unfunded and ineffective structure at district level (DDMD).

18th Constitutional Amendment and Local Government Devolution in Pakistan

The 18th Amendment was a significant milestone in Pakistani governance, transferring functions of 26 departments including local government and disaster management to provincial governments and establishing constitutional space for local governments. However, literature showed an incomplete implementation of the constitutional amendment because provincial governments are reluctant to further devolve powers and resources to district and municipal authorities. Studies by Khan (2015) and Malik (2018) document how provincial governments consistently influence and control over local governance institutions, an institutional resistance, disregarding the constitutional intent of devolution.

Pakistan Floods: Scale and Governance Failures

Rapid assessments and early estimates presented at the end of September over 6.9 million people had been affected, including 4.7 million people in Punjab Province, 1.6 million people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, 356,000 people in Gilgit-Baltistan administrative territory, and 185,000 people in Sindh Province (UN OCHA Report Pakistan, 2025). Rains and floods claimed the lives of over 1,000 people, including 275 children, with Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces suffering the brunt of impact, with 304 and 504 fatalities respectively (UN OCHA Report Pakistan, 2025). Of the 6.9 million people affected, some 3 million people were forced to flee their homes in search of higher ground, with some seeking shelter in the 1,580 evacuation centers established by provincial authorities. The flood also caused extensive damage to infrastructure, with over 229,700 houses, 790 bridges, and 2,811 kilometres of roads destroyed or damaged according to Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The magnitude of the losses indicates that centralized approach to deal with disasters and catastrophic incidents by the government needs to strengthen local governance in Pakistan. The assessment of floods 2022 indicated that local governments, already marginalized in the provincial administrative hierarchy, were almost entirely bypassed in response decisions (World Bank, 2023; UNDRR, 2023), where local governance was absent or purely ceremonial.

Analytical Framework

The analytical framework 'institutional critique lens', is employed with an aim to provide rigorous analysis of policies not as an instrument only, but as structures fundamentally shaped by existing socioeconomic and political power dynamics. It is rooted in 'critical theory' and post-structuralist philosophy. This approach also permits the deconstruction of official 'disaster narratives and examines how formal structures (constitutional and legal status) and informal practices (political interference, elite capture, and bureaucratic control) interact to produce governance outcomes. The paper analyzes three dimensions including a) the structure and performance of disaster management authorities; b) availability of resources, human, financial and physical at different governance levels; (c) the performance of governance institutions during the 2022 and 2025 flooding events. The employed theoretical framework has guided for these main themes for analysis and results

Research Methodology

Research Design

A qualitative methodology is employed in this paper for analyzing the 2022 and 2025 flood events as critical instances of disaster that highlighted systemic disaster governance weaknesses. The approach combines policy analysis, institutional examination, and empirical observation of governance performance during crisis periods. The comparative dimension examines whether and how institutional structures and responses evolved between the two flood events, testing whether 2022 prompted meaningful reform.

Data Sources

The primary data sources include Climate Policy of Pakistan, National Disaster Management Act 2010, National Disaster Management Plan 2012-2022 & 2023, National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy, 4R Framework (Reduction, Readiness, Response, Recovery), Economic Survey of Pakistan 2022, 2023 & 2024, Provincial and District Disaster Management Plans, UN and civil society, Local Government

Ordinances. Moreover, unstructured interviews with experts according to purposive sampling are also a primary source of this research. The secondary sources of data include news media reports on floods 2022 and 2025, civil society assessment and response reports, published articles on the said issue and books.

Data Analysis

The data collected from all types of sources has been analyzed through thematic analysis. The theoretical framework has paved path to choose and finalize the themes. These themes have been analyzed through the help of collected data.

Findings and Discussion

Despite the provision of Article 32 of the constitution and insertion of Article 140-A after the 18th constitutional amendment, the implementation of devolution is incomplete due to weak compliance. Federal government devolved functions of 26 departments to provincial governments, which overpowered the Chief Ministers and political elite dominates service delivery and patronage networks by controlling financial resources.

Structure of Disaster Management Authorities

Bureaucracy inherits structural centralization as key pillar of governance architecture, which retained control with the support of political elite and military hierarchy that created National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) as a result of earthquake in 2005. Though NDMA is responsible for the implementation of policy and strategy at national level, similarly provincial and district-level structure coordinate with administration but decision-making power rests with the provincial government. This vertical hierarchy causes systematic complexities and critical vulnerabilities such as communication delays, contextual inappropriateness, inflexibility in top-down strategy, capacity concentration at provincial level, which rapidly overwhelmed during big critical events and caused failures in 2022 and 2025 floods. Where local governments or district administrations wait for decisions such as evacuation, relief, and rescue emerging from provincial levels that caused delays in relief operations.

Discussion with experts presents that ‘weak governance is a key driver of disaster risk and flawed management’; recurring disasters validate the low capacity of government and absence of effective local governments have multiplier effects on governance outcome. After 18th amendment, inconsistent and incomplete devolution has exacerbated governance crisis due to a mix of centralization or decentralization functioning of the government; institutional scholars term it as “hollow devolution.” This is not a viable approach to disaster management and governance rather it leads to institutional dysfunction and paradox of local governance, which is devastating. Institutional fragmentation and lack of coordination is a challenge in Pakistan; even NDMA, PDMA and Federal Flood Commission operate in silos, which is compounded by lack of technical expertise within these institutions. PDMA and DDMA are not properly staffed with technical expertise, government has no budget provision for hiring of technical staff rather than it depends on donor funding to engage consultants. Local government could address this challenge by hiring required expertise, also serve as formal and natural link in structural hierarchy and a networking layer with local civil society organizations and communities.

Resource Availability

Resource constraints are another challenge for local governments; analysis of budget allocations discovers insufficient allocations that keep local governments and administrations (in the case of Punjab where local government does not exist) under severe resource constraints. Furthermore, District Disaster Management Authorities

(DDMA) lack dedicated budgets and are only dependent on NDMA or PDMA transfers in the case of disaster. In some cases, even though DDMA doesn't receive grants instead, it directly transferred to the district administration's account. NDMA and PDMA have their own budget, and major chunks go to administrative expenditures instead of development program. In 2022, government declared 81 districts as 'calamity hit' and 40 districts flood affected, and majority of districts were in Sindh and Balochistan. The data analysis starkly demonstrated resource constraints (human, physical, and financial) that hampered response efforts. Specific documentation from affected districts reveals that military or federal units were active in some of the districts, they deployed resources rapidly and results were positive. On the contrary, in remaining district it is noted that absence of supportable capacity at local level increased complexity and vulnerability of local population. It is clear reflection of politicization of relief operations in both provinces. In recent flood event 2025, KPK and Punjab provinces were affected badly, and situation remained unchanged in terms of response to disaster. In KPK local government institutions exist but it was neither prepared nor funded appropriately to handle the disaster. In Punjab, local governments do not exist, and there is no local government act as well. The bigger dimension of floods in Punjab, affecting southern belt, brought back crises memories of 2022 floods, which exposed enduring vulnerabilities and governance failure. It also showed a classic example of centralized operation and provincial control not only on resources but on information flow in media (print, electronic, and social) too. People were not getting news from official and private media about the devastation and misery of people; however social media was able to share factual stories and exposed governance crisis in the province. Rescue 1122 conducted app-based rescue operations but could not provide rescue and relief services in all areas due to shortage of boats and helicopters that stranded affected families in southern districts of Punjab. UN assessment also reported delays in aid packages due to affected road network, which crumbled the supply chain and districts governments were clueless about such issues. Weak disease surveillance caused spread of cholera, dengue and other diseases that strained already insufficient medical facilities.

Performance Analysis of Governance Institutions during Disaster

Documentation and notification from meteorological department analyzed and noted that warnings issued at federal level reached to provincial governments in advance but did not transmit to the district level due to bureaucratic delays. There is no institutional mechanism for accountability, the analysis also indicated that during 2022 floods advance flood warning were issued by meteorologists but not communicated further down by the provincial governments of Sindh and Balochistan, consequently people suffered. Recent flood 2025 also witnessed early warning system failures due to provincial controls, information asymmetry, and absence or weak local government structures. Local administration in Punjab depended on provincial institutions, particularly CM offices, for communication and actions in the field. It was observed where local civil society was active in communication with local people, communities received early warnings and targeted information faster through informal networks, but it was ad-hoc initiatives by local activists and organizations. This critical institutional gap persisted and unresolved, which needs improvement.

During floods 2022 the institutional response was chaotic, all federating and provincial units, and international organizations operated independently with minimum coordination. Weak local governments in Sindh and Balochistan were sidelined, relief operation and distribution were politically influenced and

bureaucratically controlled, comparative analysis across districts presents stark difference of districts politically managed and districts without any support. Provincial governments, both elected and bureaucratic leadership, focused on fund-raising and attracting international donors instead overseeing and steering the rescue and relief operations. Key ministers and officials were on foreign tours for resource mobilization that raised serious questions on governance style by the opposition and public. During floods 2025, the situation was not indifferent, Punjab is most affected province, witnessed weak response coordination and local engagement that indicate high fragmentation and inequality in rescue and relief operation. Since 2019, there are no local governments in Punjab and absence of local government critically impacted disaster relief and management mechanism. Similarly, weak local governments and overlapped mandates between local administration and PDMA resulted delays in Sindh and Balochistan. Relief operations and efforts in Punjab were widely criticized for being immensely politicized, political leadership and administration focused more on visibility less on relief. The vacuum created due to non-existence of local governance, identify urgency to establish and strengthen local governments, engaged local communities and organizations in planning and implementation of disaster risk management.

PDMA's mainly responsible for disaster management couldn't demonstrate improvement in capacity and preparation for big relief operations; it serves more as a subsidiary body of provincial governments. Institutional analysis shows political leadership has overpowered bureaucracy at provincial level, which systematically acquired local governance functions backed by political leadership in provinces. The nexus between political elite and bureaucracy has not only centralized decision making but also amplified problems for common man and increased hierarchical complexities.

Different legal, policy documents and framework analysis identify a wide gap between policy and implementation. It is also explored that public at large and majority of officials were not aware of these policies, even though these policies or frameworks are not integrated in planning and budgeting documents. NDMA Act and Disaster Risk Policy are outdated, and they need revision and targeted reforms in the policy. Data gap is another issue; there is no repository or any system for consolidation of data for informed decision making. During the research, several reports were analyzed, and each report or assessment has different data and information, which is a result of provincial control. Media reports and discussion revealed that departments have insufficient emergency infrastructure including necessary machinery, equipment, vehicles, and inadequate resource stocks. Though officials and experts identified this gap during 2010 and 2022 floods, this gap persists, which shows the inability of governments to address.

Punjab is Pakistan's breadbasket and most populated province, but floods 2025 destructed cropland and damaged agricultural infrastructure and livestock across the province and resulted in displacement of a larger population. It threatened lives, economy, food security and witnessed price shocks, farmers and agricultural workers experienced huge losses, which increased vulnerabilities of families and government has no plans to support and rehabilitate them. The uneven burden of disaster impacts on marginalized population due to governance failure, affectees genuinely need sustained support, which was not available and response was delayed. The analysis shows cause of delays first, provincial governments were waiting for damage assessments from local administration, which took months. Second, provincial governments didn't allocate budgets in fiscal year 2025-2026 for any disaster foreseen despite predictions and alerts communicated by met office. It created a perception of government failure and discrimination due to constant publicity by the provincial government; opposition criticized unchecked spending

over the Chief Minister's publicity and termed it 'busy on Tik Tok'. People also criticized the role of bureaucracy and political leadership as they were using this public crisis to get political mileage.

Disasters have constantly shown gaps in policy making, implementation and institutional coordination, which exposes flaws of disaster governance in Pakistan. Floods, droughts, earthquakes, violent incidents, and aftermaths of war against terrorism validate that disaster has a nexus with governance. It heavily depends on how political decisions are made for resource allocation and strengthening governments' institutional capacity. Pakistan's governance architecture and structure is not efficient, and federal system complicates this nexus. Despite 18th constitutional amendment, federal and provincial governments hold centralized approach to decision making, which causes bureaucratic hurdles, communication barriers, resource distribution and deployment that create demonstrable inefficiencies in disaster management. This traditional approach to disaster management and institutional dysfunction does not mitigate the intensified flooding risks due to climate change.

Disaster planning and governance is not a priority in Pakistan and receive limited consideration in its development priorities and resource allocation. Institutions like NDMA, Meteorological, and Federal Flood Commission operate with budget constraints and have no capacity to mobilize resources within governments and outside and deliver effectively. Similarly, provincial governments have no capacity to develop mitigation plans and ensure implementation of rules especially in the prohibited areas of riverain belts, where people start living illegally. Rapid unplanned urbanization and absence of land-zoning and control laws are another critical factor, which allows populations to develop illegal settlements even in disaster-prone areas without any check. Moreover, politics of development project is another challenge, politically motivated mega projects are exempted from any strategic and legal consideration of environment and disaster impacts they occur. Pakistan also started experiencing worsening urban flooding in big cities like Lahore, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Lyari, Hyderabad, due to poor and inadequate drainage system and urban planning, causing heavy economic loss.

Weak local governments, to some extent, failed to engage local communities and organizations, but have some linkages as compared to Punjab where local governments do not exist, and government showed no interest in engaging local communities during flood 2025. This approach exacerbated the crisis and weakened institutional credibility and increased trust deficit between state and citizen. Some local organizations like Lodhran Pilot Project (LPP) reached out local communities in flood affected areas of Punjab and KP, provided relief worth of Rs. 440 million approximately and constituted local communities as first line of response in affected areas. Similarly, other local organizations also helped affected communities by disseminating early warnings and critical information related to relief work by government. Low response from international organizations and centralized control by provincial governments undermined the ability of local organizations. International best practices prove that without local participation in planning and disaster preparedness, disaster response becomes futile, ineffective and impacts social cohesion.

Literature shows that accountability and transparency are key characteristics of good governance and are essential in disaster governance. Existing policies and frameworks mention the significance of accountability and transparency, but practical application is inconsistent, and policy implementation is weak due to political factors and structural issues. Reports from international organizations and

Auditor General of Pakistan point out the issues of corruption and mismanagement that exacerbate human suffering during disaster events. These issues are repeatedly highlighted but no measures have been taken to address and improve the system. Experts discussed that governments did not learn anything about shortcomings in every disaster due to lack of accountability. They quoted that “decision on breaching of protection bund is always protect political elite and feudal instead public at large, it repeatedly happens due to no accountability.” The perception of corruption in aid distribution and failures of operations at local level are direct consequences of weak enforcement of rules.

Recurring disasters, natural or manmade, in Pakistan are examples that absence of disaster governance strategy and traditional structure and approach outpaced by climatic changes. Columnist Ehsan Leghari wrote in Dawn (2025), “disaster demand more than reactive aid; they require strategic foresight” and “with global wisdom and local resolve, this crisis can spark a revolution in preparedness, ensuring no flood catches us off guard again”. Learning from past events accentuates the need for paradigm shift from centrally managed to a responsive approach to disaster management. The reactive approach requires hyper-local governance and empowering local communities, use of data and technology revolution, anticipatory action and smart planning. Based on analysis and discussion outcome with experts, following set of recommendations proposed to proactive approach for improving disaster governance.

Conclusion

The fate of devolution hangs in balance in Pakistan since 2008, when democratic governments came in power and devolution of power plan rolled back in 2009 and passage of 18th constitutional amendments in 2010. The political and bureaucratic elite intentionally designed local governance framework that diluted the core promise of devolution. These challenges increased the disaster risks due to lack of an effective support system. Therefore, a clear disaster governance framework is essentially required to reduce disaster vulnerabilities effectively. Using technology, developing emergency response plans, raising awareness among local communities in disaster prone districts, and improved early warning system will reduce vulnerabilities. Research and development activities are important for institutionalizing learning, which will help to develop resilience through adaptation. The analysis and discussion in this paper highlights the weaknesses presented by the failed devolution process required transformational process to improve disaster risk governance. Challenges to disaster governance in Pakistan is an institutional and path dependence perspective. The fact that formal institutions of disaster management are being set up marks important progress; however, such institutions have scarce resources and are not linked in with the local realities and needs of local communities.

The transformation of governance for disasters depends on sustained political will to reform policy, strengthening institutions combined with adequate resourcing and the engagement and partnership with local communities in meaningful ways. Through building coherent governance arrangements, re-purposing resources towards risk reduction, institutionalizing community participation and making accountability more meaningful, Pakistan can move from crisis response to resilience. This transformation will strengthen Pakistan's ability to save lives, protect livelihoods in disasters and advance on a path of sustainable development.

Recommendations

Governments at federal and provincial levels should strengthen and integrate multi-level governance and establish a command center under NDMA mandated for inter-agency coordination and collaboration, revise and update standardized operating

procedures and develop accountability mechanisms frameworks. The center should revise NDMA Act 2010 and other policy frameworks in the light of recent flood incidents and other crises. As climate change is reality and Pakistan is being affected by these changes, a dedicated cadre of disaster experts and professionals be created for appropriate disaster response by reducing reliance of external resources. Policy gaps need to be addressed, disaster governance framework should be developed along with national strategy for emergency stock and supply including equipment, vehicles, and other essential items required in emergencies. NDMA should work closely with Planning Commission at federal level and with Planning and Development Departments at provincial level to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction plans across all sectors.

Provincial governments should empower local governments particularly in Punjab as defined under Article 140-A of the constitution. Other provinces should empower local governments by giving administrative authority and fiscal autonomy. Each local government should have dedicated funds for disaster management as first responders leading with preparedness. There should be provision forming Community Disaster Management Committees at union council level. District Disaster Management Authorities should be established and equipped with staffing and resources and making them part of the local governments. Regular training programs should be planned and implemented with drills to enhance skills and preparedness level for anticipated disasters.

NDMA and other agencies should develop and institutionalize assessment mechanisms for disaster risk during and after the disaster, and also for all major development projects. Disaster risk reduction and management frameworks and plans should be monitored periodically by using technology. Disaster management infrastructure should be upgraded, especially in remote areas for better services and verified information.

Each provincial government should encourage and engage local communities and civil society organizations as part of disaster risk reduction and management plans. They should be engaged in planning exercises and take part in relief operations. They can be instrumental in awareness raising, mobilizing communities, overseeing aid distribution by using technological tools and assisting government to ensure smooth implementation of relief efforts. Civil society should have formal role and engagement with the local government due to their facility, capacity and technical know-how to support at local level. There should be a policy to engage private sector pre and post disaster situations, as there is potential for mobilizing technical and financial resources.

Federal and provincial governments should have comprehensive policies for institutional integration, resource allocation dedicating national and provincial budgets for disaster management, establishment of disaster management training institute linking with 1122 training academy and developing institutional performance management systems by fostering culture of accountability and transparency.

Conflict of Interest

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