

**Climate-Induced Displacement in Pakistan: Evaluating Gaps in
Policy and Protection Measures,
Insights from Khairpur District of Sindh**



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CERTIFICATE

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Author's Declaration

I, the undersigned Amjadullah, hereby declare that I am the sole author of this thesis. To the best of my knowledge, this thesis contains no material previously published by any other person except where due acknowledgement has been made. This thesis contains no material that has been accepted as part of the requirements of any other academic degree or non-degree program, in English or in any other language. This is a true copy of the thesis, including final revisions.

Date: october-31-2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amjadullah" with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Signature of Student

Amjadullah

Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved parents, whose prayers and motivation have guided me through every step of my journey. Their belief in the power of knowledge and their sacrifices lit my path in the pursuit of wisdom. To my brothers, whose support helped me stay steadfast in seeking purpose through learning.

This milestone is as much theirs as mine.

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Abstract

Climate-Induced Displacement is an emerging humanitarian and development challenge, affecting millions globally. Pakistan is increasingly witnessing its severe consequences due to floods and other climate disasters. This study explores the lived experiences of Climate-Induced Displaced Persons (CIDPs) in Pakistan and focuses specifically on understanding the gender-specific vulnerabilities, protection gaps, and the extent of government services provision. It uses a qualitative dominant mix method approach, combining quantitative data from a structured questionnaire with qualitative insights from semi-structured interviews. Quantitative data has only been used to explore the gender perspective regarding government assistance and their lived experiences as CIDPs. Insights for this study have been collected from Khairpur District of Sindh, one of the most affected regions from the 2022 mega-floods. The research critically evaluates the adequacy of existing institutional frameworks and protection mechanisms, finding that Pakistan not only lacks a comprehensive policy for CIDPs' protection but also exhibits gaps in its protection mechanism in the form of the absence of aid coordination, emergency evacuation plans, and long-term rehabilitation plans.

Besides, the study uses textual analysis to uncover gaps in international legal frameworks, particularly those addressing the issue of displacement. The study reveals that these legal regimes remain fragmented, ambiguous, and lack enforceability, especially in the context of climate-induced displacement.

Furthermore, the study finds that CIDPs, both male and female, face significant challenges in the form of safe housing, privacy, and lack of access to health, education, and other basic necessities. However, it reveals that a female face has layered vulnerabilities. Thus, it highlights the need for a gender-sensitive approach to displacement policy. The study suggests the establishment of a CIDP commission that could document, report, and advocate for the rights of CIDPs. It also proposes strong monitoring and tracking mechanisms, mainstreaming CIDPs into disaster preparedness and response plans, and inter-agency coordination. This thesis aims to contribute to the discourse on a sustainable and rights-based approach to climate-induced displacement in Pakistan by addressing the immediate needs and structural vulnerabilities of CIDPs.

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List of Abbreviations

CIDPs	Climate-Induced Displaced Persons
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
CID	Climate-Induced Displacement
DDMA	District Disaster Management Authority
PDMA	Provincial Disaster Management Authority
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
DMF	Disaster Management Framework
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
ILF	International Legal Framework
IOM	International Organization for Migration
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
IDMC	Internal Monitoring Displacement Centre
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
MoCC&EC	Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Climate change has emerged as one of the most pressing issues of the 21st century, affecting ecosystems, economies, and the human population. Among its various consequences, climate-induced displacement is an escalating phenomenon. In 2022, 53% of the global displacement was brought about by environmental disasters. 98% of this displacement was related to climate-related disasters (OCHA, 2024). Defined as individuals or groups who have been forced to leave their traditional habitat because of marked environmental disruptions, temporary or permanent, that jeopardize their existence and/or have seriously affected the quality of their lives (Hinnawi, 1985). This form of displacement presents considerable humanitarian, social, and governance challenges. For example, Muggah & Abdenur (2018) noted that the displaced usually end up in low-income informal settlements, as a result of which they become recipients of uneven access to basic services and face obstacles while entering the formal and informal labor market. However, unlike conflict-induced displaced persons who gain the status of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as per the international conventions like UN Guiding Principles and Kampala Convention, or refugees who cross the state border and are protected by the Refugee Convention 1951, those uprooted by climate have no international framework per se for their protection (IASC-WG, 1999)¹. However, under humanitarian grounds and the responsibility to protect doctrine, the concerned state is responsible for adopting measures that ensure the well-being of displaced persons (UNHCR, 2024).

Pakistan is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change and has witnessed a significant rise in climate-induced displacement over the last few decades (Salik et al., 2020). According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), approximately 7.9 million people were displaced by climate-related disasters in 2022 alone (OCHA², 2022), a 25% of the global flooding triggered displacement (GRID, 2023). Apocalyptic

¹ The Inter-Agency Standing Committee is a forum involving UN and Non-UN humanitarian partners to coordinate response to emergency and disaster.

² The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is a UN's arm is responsible for coordinating international humanitarian response efforts including disasters and conflicts.

floods, persistent droughts, and hot spells have forced millions to abandon their places, often without adequate support or protection measures.

Sindh remains one of the most affected regions, especially from floods caused by climate change. Data of the rainfall pattern over the last 6-7 decades show that there is a persistent rise in rainfall (per mm). The government of Sindh Report in the 2022 floods illustrates that Sindh received the highest rainfall in 2022: 387.5 mm, which is 175% higher than the average rainfall of 150.9 mm from 1961 to 2022. The pattern and frequency over the last few decades have been illustrated in the figure below:

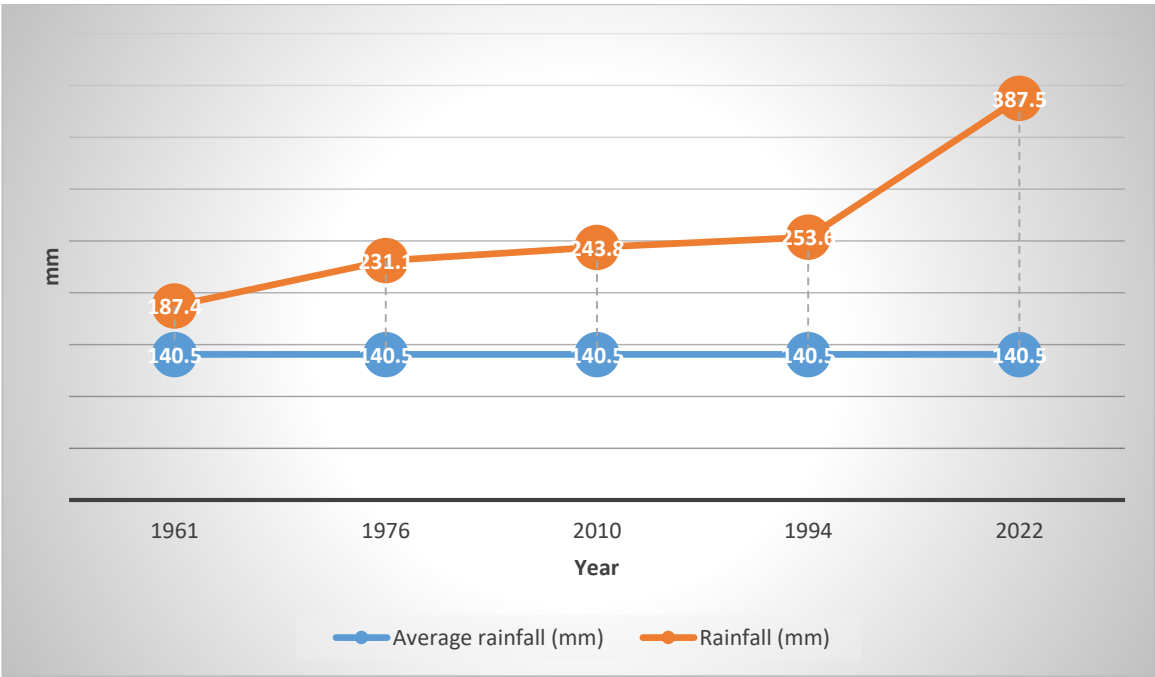


Figure 1: Monsoon season rainfall records

(Data Source: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD))

The rise in rainfall over time, as shown in the chart above, shows that more such catastrophic floods and other climate-induced disasters can occur in the future. People are becoming vulnerable to the effects of climate change, particularly due to being marginalized and due to weak governance and poor infrastructure, which, when interacting with natural hazards like floods, cause mass displacement. Therefore, the government of the concerned state and the international community had to seriously think about developing laws to protect the affected and to build community resilience to respond adaptively to the changes introduced by climate change. Besides, without an

effective coping mechanism in place, a government is not likely to tackle such issues of climate change.

The floods caused severe damage. The report estimates that 1093 humans lost their losses (with District Khairpur at the top having incurred 222 deaths), 8422 were injured, 436,435 livestock died, and 2,087,186 houses were damaged. The table below shows the losses and damages incurred during the 2022 floods.

Table 1.1: Loss and Damage Compensation

Death and Injuries	Human Deaths	1093
	Human Injuries	8,422
	Livestock Loss	436,435
Infrastructure Damages	Houses (count)	2,087,186
	Road (km)	8,463
	Bridges (count)	165
	Causeways (running foot)	2,124
Population Affected	Affected Population	12,356,860
	Displaced Population	7,387,272
Crop Damages	3,777,272	

(Source: PDMA—Sindh)

Given the magnitude of displacement, Pakistan's policy and institutional framework remains fragmented and underdeveloped (Salik et al., 2020). Thereby, contributing to the ad-hoc nature of the response strategy to such a crisis (Alobo & Obaji, 2016). Alongside, the losses and damages incurred during the 2022 floods show that the government has not been in a position to adopt a proactive approach by building community resilience to such catastrophic climate-related events.

This study aims to evaluate the gaps in Pakistan's policy and protection measures concerning climate-induced displacement. It does not, however, concern every aspect of the damages incurred during the floods. Losses and damages are to be used to evaluate the government response.

Based on the insights from the 2022 climate-related floods' most affected region of Khairpur, it sought to assess the adequacy of the current legal and institutional framework in addressing the needs of the displaced population and identifying areas where significant improvement is needed. Alongside, it explored the drivers of climate-induced displacement through which the study aimed to understand the challenges faced by the people affected.

Moreover, the research explores the intersection of the international framework with Pakistan's policies, providing grounds for the alignment of national strategies with international commitments. In doing so, the research aspires to contribute to the development of robust policy recommendations aimed at enhancing resilience, equity, and sustainability in the face of climate-induced displacement.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The primary research problem is the gaps in Pakistan's policies and protection measures³ for climate-induced displacement. Neither the international legal governance nor the Pakistani local governance system has sufficient measures in place to protect them. The existing ones have significant gaps in their content and implementation mechanisms. As a result of these gaps and inconsistencies, the existing policies and protection measures fail to address the needs of displaced people (Salik et al., 2020). The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has declared climate-induced displacement as a matter of urgent concern (Feijen, 2012); however, no adequate system exists to address the concerns of CIDPs. The displaced communities face multiple problems in the form of lack of shelter and relief camps, inadequate health facilities and lack of proper education; pre-disaster resilience and post-disaster rehabilitation. The research also draws upon the definitional inadequacy and inconsistent international legal framework for climate-induced displacement, as such inadequacy affects the development of relevant policies and protection measures in Pakistan's development agenda.

³ The gaps in protection and in legal frameworks, in this research, refers to the inadequate legal frameworks and protection measure such as evacuation of those affected amid displacement, post displacement shelter, and rehabilitation. Problems have also been observed during the implementation process of the existing policies. See Muhammad Asif and Javed Sheikh, '*Climate Change and Displacement in Pakistan: Resettlement Policy Challenges and Multisectoral Impacts*' (Zakariya Journal of Social Sciences, November 1, 2025) (Asif & Sheikh, 2025).

Over the last few decades, climate change has become one of the most significant drivers of displacement worldwide. According to IDMC, 75.9 million people are living in internal displacement globally. Among them, climate disasters displaced around 7.7 million. Since 2017, more people have been displaced by sudden onset climate events than the conflict: sixty-one percent compared to thirty-nine percent (IDMC, 2019). In addition, many of the conflicts, particularly over water and natural resources, are the direct or indirect result of climate change (GRID, 2023). In Pakistan, approximately 7.9 million people were displaced by the 2022 floods alone. Given the magnitude of displacement, a robust policy and intervention mechanism needs to be in place, so that the displaced are not only provided with basic facilities, but also to enhance government capacity in terms of resilience and sustainability in the face of climate-induced displacement.

1.3 Research Problem

Based on the Statement of Problem provided in the aforementioned paragraph, this study has narrowed down the research problem into “**Climate-Induced Displacement in Pakistan: Evaluating Gaps in Policy and Protection Measures**” and has operationalized my topic into the following research questions and objectives.

1.4 Research questions

1. What are the drivers of climate-induced displacement in Pakistan?
2. (a) What are the ambiguities and inconsistencies in international legal frameworks and definitions of Climate-Induced Displaced Persons?
(b) How do these ambiguities and inconsistencies impacts the development of relevant policies and protection measures in Pakistan’s development agendas?
3. To what extent do Pakistan’s existing policies and protection interventions address the needs of individuals and communities displaced by climate-related events

1.5 Research Objectives

- To identify and analyze the primary drivers of climate-induced displacement in Pakistan

- To unearth ambiguities and inconsistencies in the international legal framework (ILF) and definition, and its impacts on the recognition and protection of the displaced, and how it impacts Pakistan's policy development concerning climate-induced displaced persons
- To analyze the extent of Pakistan's existing policies and intervention measures to address the needs of climate-induced displaced population
- To explore the major gaps in Pakistan's policies and protection measures for climate-induced displaced, particularly in terms of legal, social, and institutional support. Besides, based on it aims to propose the required improvement in Policy measures.

1.6 Significance of the Research

This study seeks to assess the adequacy of policy and intervention measures adopted for the protection of climate-induced displaced persons. Alongside, it also examines the definitional inconsistencies in international frameworks for climate uprooted displaced persons and how these inconsistencies impact policy development in Pakistan. By doing so, the research contributes to the broader understanding of the phenomenon of climate-induced displacement. Besides, by gauging the experiences of the displaced persons and the state policy and protection failure, the study advances the discourse on justice, human rights, and the responsibility of states under frameworks like the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine. Moreover, by evaluating the existing policies and intervention measures through the use of qualitative methods (interviews with the displaced persons of Khairpur district and the government and NGO representatives), this study offers a critical insight into the social and environmental dynamics of climate-induced displacement. On the policy front, the study has practical implications for shaping national and international policies and protection regimes for the protection of climate-induced displaced persons. It provides evidence-based recommendations to improve Pakistan's legal and institutional framework for the protection of climate-induced displaced persons (Shamsuddoha, 2015a).

In a nutshell, this research is significant in bridging the gaps between theory, policy, and practice, addressing a critical and growing challenge of climate-induced displacement in Pakistan and globally.

Chapter 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Review of Literature

Climate change is having severe impacts on the human population, resulting in the displacement of a large number of communities and individuals. In 2022, 53% of the global displacement was brought about by disaster. 98% of this displacement was related with climate related disasters (OCHA, 2024). The maximalist school of thought⁴ Expect hundreds of millions of people, even billions, to be displaced by climate change-related incidents (Myers, 1993). The Christian Aid Report title, “Human Tide: The Real Migration Crisis,” estimates that, *‘unless strong preventative action is taken, between now and 2050 climate change will push the number of displaced people globally to at least 1 billion’* (Baird, 2007).

The review of literature has been divided into five parts. The first part discusses Climate Change as a potential driver of human displacement due to its catastrophic impacts, which compels humans to migrate from a place of their original habitat. The second portion highlight the key ambiguities and inconsistencies in international legal frameworks. This portion also sheds light on how these ambiguities and inconsistencies impact the policy landscape related to CIDPs in Pakistan. The third portion evaluates gaps in policy and protection measures of Pakistan for Climate-Induced Displaced Persons (CIDPs). The next part of the literature review identifies gaps in the literature and tries to answer and address such gaps in the results and discussion portion of the thesis. The final portion of this chapter includes a theoretical framework.

2.1.1 The drivers of climate-induced displacement

Climate-induced displacement has become a critical area of research in environmental and migration studies. Climate-related disasters like cataclysmic floods, persistent droughts, and storms serve as the triggering point for displacement; however, studies underscore that besides

⁴ The maximalist school of thought attribute large scale catastrophes as the primary drivers of large number of displacement in the future, expectedly 1 billion up to 2050. The view is contrasted with the minimalist school of thought which attribute migration to the co-existence of a number of factors including socio-economic and cultural factors. See Astri Suhrke, ‘*Environmental Degradation and Population Flows,*’ *Journal of International Affairs* 47, no.2 (1994) (Suhrke, 1994) . See Also Norman Myers, ‘*Environmental Refugees in a Globally Wormed World,*’ Oxford University Press 43, no. 11 (1993 (Myers, 1993a)).

these immediate causes, certain social, political, economic, and governance issue makes the population vulnerable to climate disasters that result in displacement (Black et al., 2011; Warner & Afifi, 2014). Vulnerability, which cover the capacity of individuals and community to cope with and recover from the environmental shock⁵ (Adger, 2006), is a leading cause of displacement in the face of climate disasters. This is because vulnerability does not operate only on hazards, but also on social, political, and institutional factors, including poverty and marginalization (Cannon & Müller-Mahn, 2010). For example, floods in Pakistan, particularly in region which already faces vulnerabilities like poor infrastructure and weak governance, have exacerbated the phenomenon of displacement (Ahmad et al., 2024; Ahmad & Afzal, 2024).

Institutional failure (in the face of climate change) in providing early aid to the disaster victims and in addressing early warning significantly contributes to the displacement crisis (Mustafa & Wrathall, 2011). Other factors, alongside the severity of climate change itself, include the socioeconomic vulnerability of the people in the face of severe climate-related disasters. (Adnan et al., 2024). Barnett & Adger, (2007) Argue that, in developing countries, poor infrastructure and corruption in governmental institution hinder effective adaptation and recovery leading to mass displacement. Alongside minority groups, women, and the locals usually lack access to safety nets, making them vulnerable to displacement whenever a climate disaster hits (Kaenzig & Piguet, 2014). Moreover, a lack of recognition and protective policy framework further exacerbates the problem. The 1951 refugee convention does not extend its sphere to the climate-induced displaced person, leaving million without legal protection or entitlement (Kälin & Schrepfer, 2012).

2.1.2 Inconsistencies in ILF for CIDPs

International institutional arrangements are in place to protect the vulnerable. International and regional legal frameworks, such as the *United Nations Guiding Principle* (OCHA, 1998) and the *Kampala Convention* (African Union, 2009) provide the foundational guide for the protection of basic rights of IDPs. However, these documents are ambiguous on the climate-induced

⁵ Environmental Shocks refers to sudden, acute events such as flash floods, landslide, dam bursts and earthquake which causes displacement. It does not necessarily mean events caused by a long-term climate change trends or slow-onset phenomenon. This term is used to distinguish one-off environmental related disasters from climate-related catastrophes, which are typically recurrent and slow-onset. For more on how such shocks differ in scale and predictability from climate-mediated disasters see Sara Akram & Shama Mushtaq, “*Environmental change and floods: the long-ignored effects of displacement on mental health*” (Frontiers in Public Health, 2024) (Akram & Mushtaq, 2024).

displacement and do not consider such persons as IDPs per se. Shamsuddoha (2015) mentions that Climate-Induced Migrants do not qualify the criteria of a refugee under the 1951 Refugee Convention and are not protected adequately by the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, as the document is not legally binding on the states concerned. Schimmel (2022) argues that under International Law, the UN Guiding Principles are not a legally binding document and they are not legal protection per se—except when they restate legally binding international human rights law. Din (2010) expresses a similar opinion, stating that an International legal framework for refugees does exist, not regarding IDPs per se. He considers so, primarily due to the view that IDPs are an internal phenomenon of the states, as the last line of the IDPs definition by Guiding Principles defines them "*and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border*" (UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, 2004). There exists definitional ambiguity that makes the term “climate displacement” subject to too much interpretation. Warner (2010) argues that international experts and practitioners have not developed a universally agreed definition of the terminology, “climate-induced mobility”⁶. Various terms like “climate-induced displacement”, “climate migrants”, and “climate refugee” are being used for such mobility. However, little consensus has been developed so far on the correct terminology among authors, scholars, governments, and practitioners (Hamlin, 2022; Rathod, 2020).

Alongside, the various international legal frameworks for CIDPs have many ambiguities and inconsistencies that hinder the formulation of a comprehensive legal framework for their protection. Foster, (2007), for example, argues that the 1951 Refugee Convention conditionality of ‘Persecution’⁷ Being eligible for refugee, does not cover CIDPs, neither by its wording nor by its purpose.

⁶ Mobility refers to a spectrum of climate induced movement ranging from voluntary migration to forced displacement. The word mobility, in this context, is often cited as an alternate for displacement. Displacement, however, largely encompasses forced movement, while mobility covers both forced and voluntary movement of people due to both sudden on-set disasters and slow onset disaster. In the latter case, movement is undertaken preemptively and adaptively. See Andrew Baldwin, ‘Securitizing ‘Climate Refugees’: The Futurology of Climate-Induced Migration,’ Critical Studies on Security 2, no. 2 (2014): 121–30 (Baldwin et al., 2014)

⁷ The term persecution is used in Article 1 (A)(2) of 1951 refugee convention, which define refugee as “*someone with a well found fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion*”. Although the convention does not explicitly define the word persecution; however, in international refugee law it broadly refers to human rights violation or threat to human life and freedom. See, UN General Assembly, Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, 28 July 1951, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, p. 137; and UNHCR, Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status, HCR/IP/4/ENG/REV. 3, 2011, paras. 51–60.

Olivia Lwabukuna states that sovereignty entails the responsibility to protect, particularly those in need of protection, and that the principles of Responsibility to Protect (R2P)⁸ Calls for the international community to intervene if the state fails to protect its people (Lwabukuna, 2021). Cohen, (2010), however, argues that amid the Biafran civil war in the 1960s, the High Commissioner for Refugees refused to help IDPs⁹ Citing that his office has no authority to intervene in situations affecting people, yet remains within the territories of their concerned states. UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar pointed out in 1999 that people's attitudes are favoring the belief that the protection of the oppressed should be prioritized over borders and territories (Cohen, 2010). The problem is inherent to the inconsistencies in the international legal framework for the protection of IDPs, particularly climate-induced Displaced Persons who have been pushed into a legal vacuum. McAdam, (2012) Opines that such a legal vacuum on CIDPs makes it extremely difficult for countries like Pakistan to develop policies that align with international standards.

Pakistan's policy landscape reflects this ambiguity, as it lacks a distinct policy framework to address the specific needs of the displaced communities, often subsuming them under the disaster management framework, which is more reactive rather than proactive. Kälin and Schrepfer use the term "Trapped Population," which refers to people who are exposed to climate and environmental stressors; however, due to insufficient resources, they lack the capacity to adapt to such environmental stressors. They also highlight that these gaps result in fragmented policy approaches, where governments struggle to identify displaced populations, leading to underfunded and poorly coordinated protection mechanisms (Kälin & Schrepfer, 2012). In the context of Pakistan, which contributes less than 1% to the global carbon emissions, the state is receiving adequate financial support from the international community to protect the climate-induced displaced persons, resulting in fragmented policy approaches. Other than international legal

⁸ The doctrine of Responsibility to Protect" initially propounded by the International Commission on Intervention of State Sovereignty (ICISS) in 2001. Redefined sovereignty as responsibility rather than a right. The doctrine calls for a state to entertain its sovereignty by protecting people from conflicts, genocide, ethnic cleansing etc. See, International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS), *The Responsibility to Protect: Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty*, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), December 2001; and UN General Assembly, 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, A/RES/60/1, paras. 138–139.

⁹ Internally Displaced Persons are individual who are forced to flee conflict or human rights violation but have not crossed the internationally recognized border of the state concerned. IDPs are distinguish from Refugee as the former remain within the country where they face human rights violation, while the latter refers to those who flee persecution and cross the state border. See: Walter Kalin, "*Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement: Annotations*", *Studies in Transnational Legal Policy*, No. 38 (2008).

frameworks, many national legal regimes also do not consider climate-induced displaced persons under the fabric of IDPs, which have, somehow, gained recognition under the Guiding Principle. Consequently, it places climate-induced displaced persons under another layer of discrimination, other than being displaced.

Therefore, the lack of international legal regimes translates to an inadequate or an absence of national laws. The Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness (EGRIS) Report 2020 observes that Azerbaijan's Law on the Status of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons limits the sources of displacement to military adventurism, natural disasters, and tech-related disasters (European Commission. Statistical Office of the European Union. & United Nations Organization., 2020). O'Connell & Bhatti, (2024) Opines that the Peruvian Law related to Internally Displaced and the Colombian Law on Internal Displacement fail to mention natural or human-made disasters as an attributor in their definitions of internal displacement. In 2018, however, Peru adopted a law on climate change that includes a reference to forced migration as a result of climate change.

2.1.3 Policy and Protection Gaps for CIDPs in Pakistan

The case of Pakistan is no exception to the inadequate legal and policy measures for the protection of its Internally Displaced Persons. (Mehdi, 2000;Baig et al., 2024) Attribute the miserable conditions of IDPs in Pakistan to the very little awareness of the complexity and gravity of the Displacement, and to the lack of comprehensive studies focusing on the extent, causes, dynamics, challenges, and consequences of internal displacement. This results in a legal and policy void for IDPs in Pakistan. Asif & Sheikh note that Pakistan does not have a fully developed and clear strategy concerning Climate-Induced Displacement (Asif & Sheikh, 2025). O'Connell & Bhatti, (2024) Argues that Pakistan has no such law for the protection of IDPs per se. The Land Acquisition Act of 1894 is the only law that mentions displacement. The act is a remnant of the colonial times when the landowners were marginalized and their property was forcibly seized for public purposes, often against their will. Due to the absence of a legal framework and the inadequate response mechanism, IDPs in Pakistan have largely been ignored and marginalized, leading to the ignition of a sense of resentment and alienation towards the state (ICG, 2010).

The problem of Displacement has been further complicated by the inadequate and uncoordinated implementation of policy plans by the various institutions created for climate change and/or for the purpose of responding to disaster situations that can lead to human displacement. Najam Ud Din highlights that though Pakistan has established the National Disaster Management Agency to respond to crises like the 2010 flood, its ability would be deficient without functional disaster management authorities at the local and provincial levels (Din, 2010). Implementation of the existing legal regime is a major institutional problem that hinders the effectiveness of operations to facilitate those displaced by climate-related events (Syed et al., 2022). The NCCP 2012 includes just one clause that discusses migration as a policy measure; rural to urban migration should be curbed (*NCCP Report, 2012*).

Khan, (2025) Argues that Pakistan's 2021 National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) set ambitious goals but lacks a coordinated mechanism to undertake certain projects aimed at building adaptation, mitigation, and resilience. Khan highlights that the policy lacks clarification and a detailed explanation on how to achieve the goals set forth in the document. Durrani, (2013) Argues that The Framework for Implementation of Climate Change Policy (2014-2030) (*Framework for Implementation of CC Policy, 2013*) Also highlight climate related incidence and the consequent migration of the people as a threat to Pakistan and set out a strategy: to support and establish spaces and means in smaller agriculture-based towns and periphery urban areas and to develop infrastructure for this purpose to check out rural-to-urban migration" by "facilitating the provision of modern amenities in rural areas that would discourage rural to urban migration"; "development of industrial estates and large scale agro-forms that would provide job opportunities to the rural population near their homes"; and provision of "necessary infrastructure and services to remove agricultural settlements that would encourage goods movement rather than the movement of labor"

However, it does not address the immediate relief efforts for the climate-induced displacement. Thomas & Rendon consider that, given the scale of displacement and the conditions the displaced suffered as a result of the 2010 floods in Pakistan revealed that the national and international community is not prepared for the major threats to human security that climate change presents (ThomAs & Rendón, 2010).

In her Research, Taqdees (2024) finds that the NDMA, Pakistan's leading institution in responding to the disaster, has been greatly undermined by the meager resources available to carry out critical

operations in the disaster-hit region. Salik et al. (2020) state that Pakistan has a National Emigration Policy in place, but it mainly caters to the international migration issues and does not cover any social, cultural, demographic, and economic aspects of internal migration. Here, the policy gap is somewhat covered by the National Climate Change Policy that acknowledges the mounting risk to rural livelihood and increasing migration of the rural population to urban areas. However, the policy still does not cover the many immediate and long-term needs of the people uprooted by climate change. Moreover, as noted by the **Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP)**, due to the lack of proper policy measure in place IDPs in Pakistan face considerable Challenges including their exclusion from the policies that make them disempowered; the lack of access to information especially in the social settings of conservative norms where women feel hesitance to communicate to men regarding their concerns; and, no plans for post disaster rehabilitation. HRCP also highlights the IDPs' problem of their inaccessibility to justice, security and other basic human right like safe drinking water, health and education (Din, 2010). Imran (2024) highlights that social protection programs like the Benazir Income Support Program have been implemented in Pakistan, but such programs are not tailored to address the needs of climate-induced displaced persons, as these displaced communities have limited or no access to such protection measures (Imran, 2024).

To protect IDPs, Muguruza & Gracia suggest a certain durable solution that can serve as a guide to Pakistan. Some of them include: State security can no longer be narrowly defined in terms of protecting territories only; rather, it should also include protecting citizens. The focus should be on human security; the policy on durable solution must be based on the rights, needs, and interests of IDPs; IDPs have the right to make an informed decision about the durable solution, but their choice should not affect their right to return; and a community-based approach should be undertaken, taking into consideration the needs and vulnerabilities of the community (Del Real Alcala, 2017).

2.2 Literature Gap

While the existing literature provides valuable insight into the research problem, that is, the gaps in policy protection for climate-induced displaced persons in Pakistan and internationally, several research gaps are evident.

(Asif & Sheikh, 2025; Mehdi, 2000; O'Connell & Bhatti, 2024; Salik et al. 2020) Highlight one of the most pressing issues of CIDPs the world, and particularly Pakistan, is facing today. However, the papers do not adequately address the legal void in Pakistan's policies and the State responsibility conferred upon it by the national and international laws and norms to protect the vulnerable segment, the Induced Displaced Persons. States, as **Cohen and Deng** note, are responsible for the protection of displaced communities and individuals. By virtue of its sovereignty, a state has the responsibility to protect the displaced. In Pakistan, nonetheless, such displaced persons face numerous human rights issues. The aforementioned paper and reports discuss little about the lived experiences of the climate uprooted displaced persons. without knowing about their lived experiences, no national or international laws and policies can have the potential to address their problems adequately. That's why the national and international response to the displacement crisis management in Pakistan is usually found disjointed and arbitrary. This paper, however, discusses the legal and institutional void in Pakistan through interviews and a questionnaire from the climate-induced displaced persons. Interviews will provide the first-hand experiences of the CIDPs with the government in the 2022 floods.

Furthermore, much of the existing research on internal displacement in Pakistan focuses on humanitarian relief efforts and immediate post-crisis responses, but does not explore the long-term legal and structural barriers faced by climate-induced displaced persons during their resettlement and rehabilitation phases.

Additionally, while (Asif & Sheikh, 2025; O'Connell & Bhatti, 2024) acknowledge the absence of legal protections for climate-induced displaced persons in Pakistan, there is limited academic discourse on the specific gaps in existing national laws and how these gaps align or diverge from international standards. There is also little focus on the state's legal obligations to displaced individuals, particularly in the context of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine and Sovereignty as Responsibility doctrine. Most importantly, there is a lack of comprehensive studies that document the lived experiences of the displaced concerning their legal challenges, shelter, and security, thereby leaving a significant gap in understanding how these legal gaps directly affect the daily lives of displaced individuals.

Alongside, (Schimmel, 2022; Hamlin, 2022; Rathod, 2020; Foster, 2007) have only analyzed the specific clauses of legal documents in the context of climate-induced displacement. This thesis, on

the other hand, provides, alongside document analysis, a critical analysis of the document and the inherent flaws and inconsistencies in it.

Moreover, these papers have paid little attention to the state's responsibility to secure immediate and long-term safety, including the safety of home, belongings, dignity, and security, etc. As noted by the report of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) titled “*Internally Displaced Persons and International Humanitarian Law*,” Under the international humanitarian law, states are responsible for protecting the rights of the displaced (Interparlamentarische Union & ICRC, 2016). Various states have adopted national climate-induced IDPs-specific laws in accordance with the Guiding Principles, but Pakistan, with a huge displacement from climate change, has not achieved this milestone so far. Thus, this research aims to fill the gap by critically analyzing the gaps in Pakistan’s policy and protection measures for Climate-Induced Displaced Persons

The humanitarian and developmental dimensions have been adequately covered by the existing literature. However, the existing literature has often studied the two as isolated phenomena: there does not exist enough literature on the point of convergence between environmental policy and displacement governance, resulting in not only the absence of an integrated policy framework, but also in the creation of a significant conceptual and practical void in this area. This research, however, has drawn on the study of the intersection of climate adaptation, disaster management, and displacement governance. This research has linked climate, governance and adaptation. The linkage has been made to establish with a view to creating a link between theoretical debates and the most urgent policy needs of CIDPs, particularly in the context of the recurring climate-related devastating phenomenon, affecting millions throughout Pakistan.

2.3. Theoretical Framework

This research is guided by the “Normative legal theory” and the “Pressure and Release Model (PAR) model. The former theory has been supported by Lon L. Fuller’s concept of internal morality and by Ronald Dworkin’s Law as Integrity. These two conceptions of law lead us to raise certain questions over the validity, legality, and legitimacy of the present international and national legal regimes related to climate-induced displacement. The PAR model provides us with a useful lens to analyze the drivers of climate-induced displacement and, thereby, to propose certain measures.

2.3.1 Normative Legal Theory

Philosophers like Kant and Weber, Jeremy Bentham, and H.L.A. Hart championed the positivist interpretations of law. This positivist school of thought considers that law must not be embedded or derived from moral principles. Rather, they call for the strict separation of law from morality (Priyono, 2024). For them, the validity of a law is determined by whether the law has been created by an authority based on the established rules and procedures, not on the basis of its conformity to moral principles. Hence, they focused on procedural validity, rather than moral legality. On the other hand, legal normative theorists like Lon L. Fuller and Ronald Dworkin consider such a law that is devoid of morality as invalid and question its legitimacy (Nicholson, 1974). Unlike the positivist school of thought, which explains law as ‘what the law is’, non-positivist (Normative legal theory) views law as “what it ought to be”. The theory draws on two major normative concepts: Fuller’s internal morality of law and Dworkin’s law as integrity. These concepts provide a strong normative foundation for assessing the moral effectiveness and validity of international legal regimes, particularly related to climate-induced displacement.

2.3.1.1 Fuller’s Internal Morality of Law

Fuller, (1969) posits that for a law to be morally sound and legally legitimate, it must possess the eight desiderata, including generability, perspectivity, intelligibility, consistency, practicability, and stability. Fuller argues that a failure in this principle compromises the effectiveness and coherence of a law, which in turn renders the law invalid and illegitimate. Moreover, in his internal morality of law, Fuller argues that law should be evaluated by using how much it serves its purpose on its mere presence, and that the “what law ought to be” implies that law should be changed and reformulated according to the changing modern realities of the world. It should be embedded in the rationale and time of that particular time.

In the case of climate-induced displacement, international laws and legal regime carries certain ambiguities. For this purpose, normative legal theory provides a useful lens to critically analyse these international legal regimes, particularly their moral validity and legitimacy. This study argues that failure to recognize and include climate-induced displacement in international legal treaties and conventions that have a non-binding nature is a normative failure, as the legal category reflects a moral void in international legal obligation, which undermines both justice and

accountability. Normative legal theory call for the state's moral obligation towards the displaced population.

2.3.1.2 Dworkin's Law as Integrity

Proposed by Ronald Dworkin, law as integrity provides that law should be interpreted not just as the aggregation of rules and procedure; rather, it should be interpreted as a coherent and principled narrative that upholds the rights of individuals (Dworkin, 1986). The concept further upholds the view that like cases should be treated alike. For example, in the context of CIDPs, international law does not treat them like refugees who have been displaced from persecution. However, the ambiguous and inconsistent nature of the 1951 Refugee Convention related to CIDPs and the non-binding nature of the UN Guiding Principles undermine the principle of equality (Gammeltoft-Hansen, 2011) This framework provides a valid and justified ground that the CIDPs, though not a new problem, however, have gained momentum in recent times, should be treated like the refugees in international legal regimes. Failure in legally recognized and internationally binding laws and conventions usually results in ad-hoc responses to the climate-induced displacement crises, as witnessed in the case of the 2022 floods in Pakistan.

2.3.1 Pressure and Release (PAR) Model

This research, in order to understand the drivers of climate-induced displacement, is anchored by the PAR model, originally developed by (Wisner & Wisner, 2004). This model provides a viable lens to understand the intersection of climate-related disaster e.g., floods, and socio-political vulnerabilities in producing disasters such as displacement. The PAR model does not attribute displacement alone to natural disasters, but as the result of the underlying social and political vulnerabilities of the people.

The PAR model suggests that a disaster occurs when natural hazards intersect with vulnerability, which is formed by the progression of pressures in the form of root cause, dynamic pressure, and unsafe conditions. This theoretical framework is particularly relevant to climate-induced displacement, as the displacement is the result of the government's inefficiency in protecting them. The root causes, here, refer to structural inequalities, marginalization, and lack of access to resources, which, when embedded in state policies or legacies of neglect, contribute significantly

to the vulnerability of the affected population. For example, in Pakistan, lack of access to a safety net is a factor that is deeply rooted in long-standing governance and social inclusion failures (Kugelman, 2014; Mustafa et al., 2011). Dynamic pressures, such as poor infrastructure and a lack of early warning systems, convert root causes into unsafe conditions such as informal settlements. The cumulative impacts of dynamic pressure and unsafe conditions force people to migrate from the place of their habitual residence.

Conceptual Framework

1. Normative Legal Theory

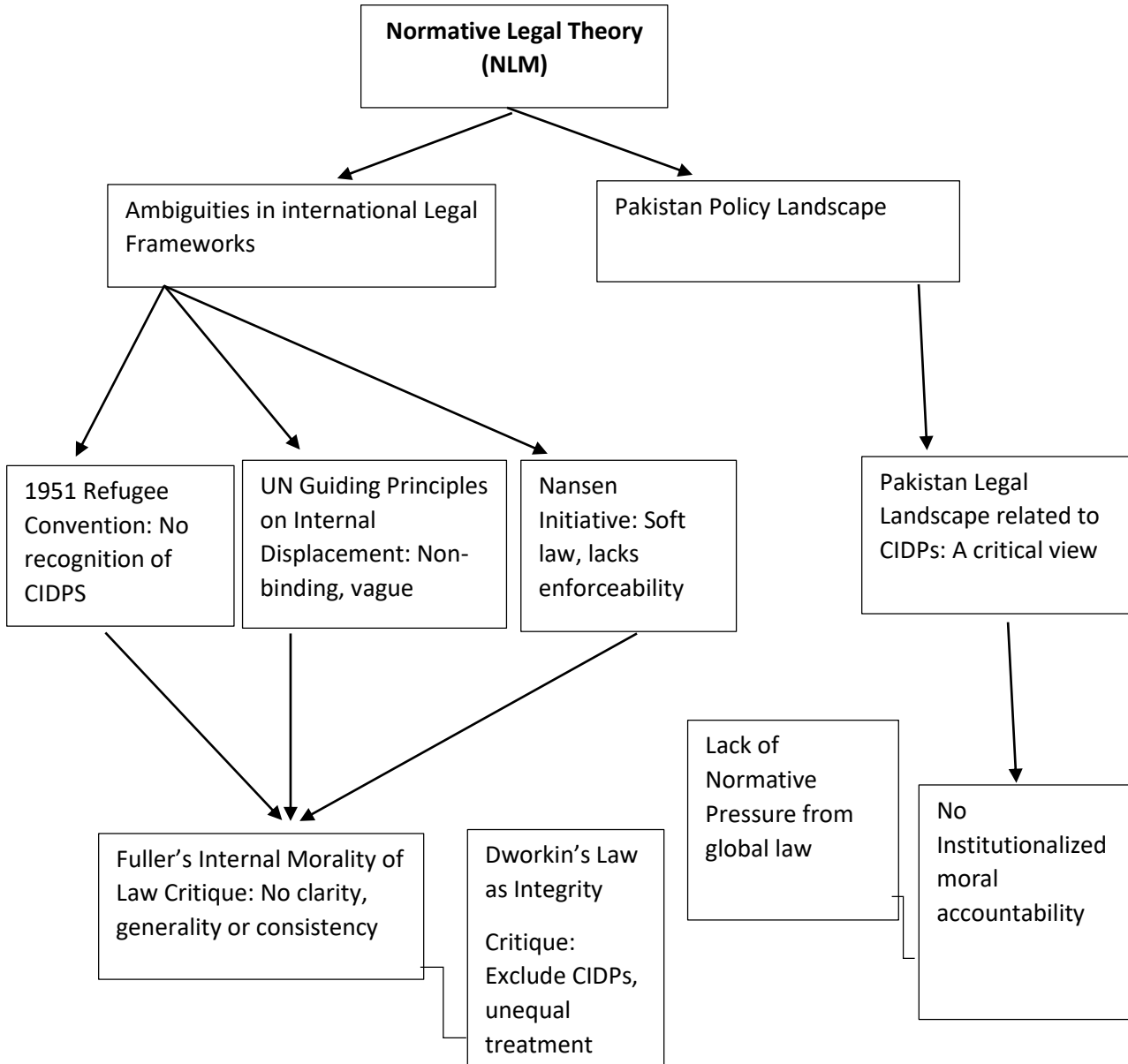


Figure 2: Conceptual framework of Normative Legal Theory

2. Pressure and Release Model

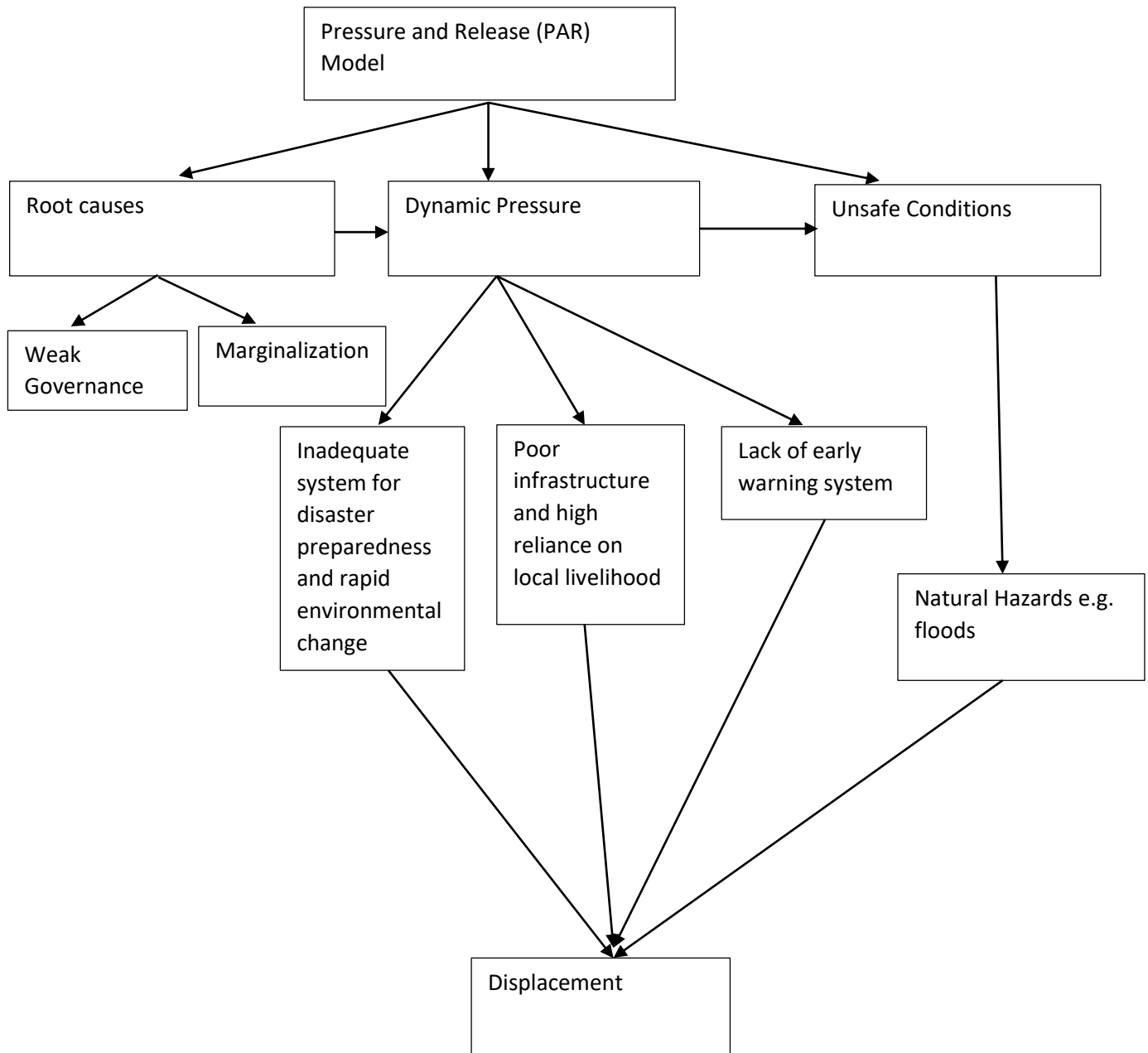


Figure 3: Conceptual framework of PRM Model

Chapter 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Ontological Stance and Epistemological Orientation

Before going to the details of research methodology, it is imperative that the researcher clarify its ontological stance and epistemological orientation. The very first step that a researcher should embark on while writing a research is to clarify his/her position as to whether he/she views the phenomenon, he/she explain, as a concrete reality or one subjected to interpretation (Al-Saadi, 2014). If a researcher assumes that the subject of research is subject to various interpretations and is fluid rather than fixed, he/she undertake an anti-foundationalist ontological stance and interpretative epistemological orientation. On the other hand, if a researcher assumes that the phenomenon under consideration has a definite and concrete reality, he/she actually undertake a foundationalist ontological stance and positivist epistemological orientation (Healy & Perry, 2000). Reality is socially constructed, as discussed by (Berger & Luckmann, 2011). Therefore, there is no objective world, and that is the key ontological assumption of interpretative approaches. Context plays an important role in the ontological assumptions of the interpretive researcher. This study adopted “constructivism” as its ontological stance with an “interpretive epistemological orientation.”

Epistemological orientation needs to be consistence with ontological stance. Unlike the objective or positivist epistemological orientation. Interpretive epistemology assumes that knowledge is produced and continues to be created as the probe continues (Elshtain, 1981). It assumes that knowledge does not have an objective nature that could not be changed; rather, it asserts that knowledge is produced through interactions and dialogue.

Policies and lived experiences of CIDPs, as the concern of this research, carry interpretive epistemological standings. Alongside, the interviews from those affected by climate-related events, particularly floods, tend to entertain knowledge as an epistemological reality, as everyone sees and perceives their lived experiences differently from others. Policies, formulated through dialogue, carry subjectivity and are thereby subjected to multiple interpretations. Given the ambiguities involved, the subjective is largely played out at the stages of implementation.

Therefore, the research uses anti-foundationalism as its ontological and interpretive orientation as its epistemological orientation.

3.2 Research Design

This research follows an explanatory research design to investigate the gaps in policy and protection measures. Explanatory research design allows for explaining the causal links (Creswell, 20) which in this case are how the failure and inadequacy of the government policy framework and ineffectiveness of National authorities lead to the mass exodus of people from climate hit and climate-prone areas. Kam et al., (2024) uses explanatory research design to model how 2022 floods in Sindh caused displacement, quantifying the relationship, particularly in the case of gender perspective regarding government assistance, between the government protection mechanism the people's experience with displacement. Similarly, in a qualitative explanatory research design, Braam, (2022), explores the causal-dynamics between displacement-driven displacement and health outcomes. In the same manner, this study uses an explanatory research design to understand how policy and institutional failure affect displacement.

Throughout the research, the focus is on both qualitative and quantitative data. However, it is mainly qualitative data, conducting key-informants' interviews and textual analysis of the legal and institutional documents to gain insight into the problems faced by the displaced persons due to the absence of an adequate legal framework for their protection or the lack of certain protection measures.

Alongside, a case study approach has been adopted where the Khairpur region of Sindh is selected to assess the adequacy of the state's protection measures during the 2022 floods. This approach focuses on the in-depth exploration of the state's protection assistance extended to the displaced individuals of the concerned area.

3.3 Research Strategy

This research aims to analyze the gaps in Pakistan's policies and Protection Measures, and also the inadequacy of the international legal regime to provide recognition to the climate-induced displacement. for this purpose, it employed "Qualitative-Dominant Mix Methods Approach", using both qualitative and quantitative methods. The qualitative part, which remains the primary

focus, analyzed documents and key informants from the key stakeholders, including the Climate-Induced Displaced Persons, Government officials, and NGOs professionals working on the relevant area, to gain a comprehensive understanding of the policies and intervention measures designed for the protection of the displaced persons and communities. The quantitative part is employed only to analyze “Gender Perspective and Experiences” of climate-induced displacement. Descriptive statistics have been used through Tabulation and cross-tabulation of the data collected through the questionnaire.

Qualitative research is a method of investigation of a social problem or a human problem. It’s a way to conduct a study involving description and explanations, and a well-thought-out examination of the informants in particular settings. The words and views of the respondents are put to these tests, and based on that, research output is produced (Pope & Mays, 1995; Tashakkori & Creswell, 2007; Yin, 2016)

Qualitative methods allowed the researcher to understand how displaced communities and individuals perceive, narrate, and make sense of their complex realities, including displacement, vulnerability, institutional neglect, and emotional impacts. Alongside, the PAR model and Normative legal theory necessitate exploring how legal ambiguities and inadequacies, both at the national and international legal regimes, shape people’s lives, which could well be gauged through qualitative research. Likewise, Nadeem & Akbar, (2024) uses a qualitative method to using in-depth interviews with 14 individuals to explore the lived experiences of climate-induced displaced persons in Sindh.

On the other hand, quantitative involves quantifying things. It asks questions such “how long,” “how many,” and “to which degree,” and also the way individuals see their experiences and the world around them. Besides, it seeks to establish knowledge and understanding of numerous assumptions generated throughout the study (Veritas University College, Malaysia & Ghanad, 2023).

Hence, given the nature of the research, this research used a qualitative and quantitative research strategy. qualitative research brings up in-depth analysis of non-numeric data (Purwanto, 2023). The qualitative part remained a dominant section of this research. Quantitative method is used to support the qualitative section.

3.4 The Methodology

Thematic analysis has been adopted as a methodology for this research. Thematic analysis allowed the researcher to extract various themes from the interviews conducted with the CIDPs and other UDCs. The themes were then analyzed to understand the lived experiences of the people who have been displaced by the 2022 floods. Their experiences eventually guided the researcher towards exploring the inadequacies in policy and protection measures. For example, living in poor conditions after being displaced with no food and shelter, meant that the government protection measures were inadequate to cater to the needs of affected communities and individuals.

For thematic analysis, the researcher has used NVivo software, whereby themes are divided into sub-themes, and then sub-themes are based on codes. In this way, it was easy to correlate interviews with the researcher's aim of exploring inadequacies in policy and protection measures.

For the quantitative part, Descriptive statistics have been employed using tabulation and cross-tabulation through Stata Software. the data collected through the questionnaire from girls' experiences of displacement and their perception of the government's role in protection has been quantified and cross-tabulated.

3.5 The Process of Data Collection

The following are the UDCs of the study:

- i. Key Climate Change Policy Documents of Pakistan
- ii. Key international legal regimes for climate-induced displacement, including the 1951 Refugee Convention, the Nansen Initiative, and the UN Guiding Principles
- iii. Journals
- iv. Transcripts of Interviews
- v. Government officials

For this research, identification of and access to the 2022 flood-affected community in the Khairpur region of Sindh was a herculean task. The effects of the 2022 floods were mostly concentrated in rural areas in Sindh. Access to them was a much difficult task. Therefore, I adopted

a snowball effect whereby I had to approach a few individuals and then ask them to suggest other individuals who may fulfill the eligibility criteria. Visiting the site was not feasible given the researcher's social and financial conditions. Therefore, the whole process of interviews was carried out online, i.e., on phone calls. I faced many difficulties in connecting to the participants, as the area faced severe internet and network issues. I had to wait for specific times, when the participant had to visit a nearby location of the network.

To include diversity, the researcher considered it important to note the experiences of women. Nevertheless, access to women was not possible; therefore, a questionnaire was prepared for them. A total of 17 responses were collected, which have been cross-tabulated through Stata.

3.5.1 Units of Data Collection

3.5.1.1 CIDPs Individuals and Households

These are individuals and communities who have been displaced due to climate-related events. Their experiences and insights are important to evaluate the adequacy of government policy and intervention.

The data collected from these individuals assessed the displacement details, such as the causes of the displacement, and their living conditions. It also examined the institutional support and relief measures.

The data collection methods for this group of UDC included Interviews.

3.5.1.2 Government Officials and NGOs representatives

The UDC is responsible for the formulation, adoption, and implementation of government policy and seeks intervention to provide immediate support to the affected population. Their insight helped in a deeper understanding of the gaps and inconsistencies in the existing policies and protection measures.

The UDC was asked to provide data regarding the challenges they faced in addressing the climate-induced displacement, and also their perception regarding the international frameworks and their applicability.

The data collection method included interviews and document analysis. The document analysis examined the existing documents that outline governmental policies and protection measures for the displaced persons.

3.5.1.3 International Legal Frameworks

International legal documents contain various ambiguities and inconsistencies. The study aims to analyze them.

For this UDC, Critical Discourse Analysis has been used to critically analyze the three main international legal frameworks related to displacement.

3.5.2 Data Collection Methods

1. ***Retrieving Data from Documents:*** The primary method of data collection will be retrieving data from documents. For this purpose, the following steps are being followed. Firstly, relevant documents were identified, which for this research included, International Legal Framework (e.g., UN Guiding Principle, Nansen Initiatives, and 1951 Refugee Convention), National Policies and Laws (e.g., Pakistan National Climate Change Policy and National Disaster Management Act), and Research articles and reports from international organizations. Secondly, for systemic retrieval, I used online publications platforms like JSTORE, government archives, and organizations' websites. Finally, to analyze this data, I categorized it based on definitions of displacement, policy measures, and protection mechanisms.
2. ***Interviews:*** semi-structured interviews were conducted with key stakeholders like government officials, NGOs professionals, and the Displaced Communities themselves. By doing thematic analysis, Interviews with displaced persons helped in providing firsthand insight into the challenges faced by them. Based on their human rights concerns, the research sought to propose policy recommendations and legal reforms.
3. ***Questionnaire:*** A questionnaire was used to include a gender perspective and experience. However, the girls of the area were not accessible. So, a questionnaire seems an appropriate option. The data collected was used in cross-tabulation.

Interviews from the key stakeholders will be conducted by the researcher, who will be visiting the targeted locale for this purpose.

3.5.3 Data Analysis

1. *Semantic-Level Thematic Analysis*¹⁰: Qualitative data from interviews, using thematic analysis, is used to identify recurring patterns and themes related to the gaps and protection challenges faced by climate uprooted displaced persons. Thematic analysis allows a great degree of flexibility in inferring the data and permits an approach to an enormous data set with ease by arranging it into extensive themes. Besides, Thematic coding helped in categorizing and interpreting the data systematically, focusing on key themes such as the challenges faced by the displaced person and the protection measures provided by the government.
2. *Document Analysis*: Document analysis involved critically analyzing international legal documents concerning climate-induced displacement, for example UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the Nansen Initiative, and the 1951 Refugee Convention have been analyzed in this study. This helped identify gaps and recommend potential reforms to bridge the disconnect between Pakistan's policies and international obligations.
3. *Descriptive Statistics*: *To* analyze the data collected through the questionnaire, descriptive statistics have been used.

3.6 Sampling

Convenience case purposive sampling has been selected for climate-induced displaced persons to gauge their experiences. Their experiences provided a critical insight into the governmental policy and protection intervention aimed at safeguarding their interest amid the climate-related incidents and during displacement. Interviews from this UDC were purely subject to their convenience and were purposive, as only those who had been displaced were interviewed. For the second and third UDCs, which are government officials (including officials from the national and provincial disaster management authority and the workers who have been assigned various tasks for the

¹⁰ Semantic-level thematic analysis focuses on the explicit or surface meaning of the participants' narratives. It identifies themes in what was directly stated by the participant rather than interpreting the underlying meanings. See: Braun & Clarke, (2006). "Using thematic analysis in psychology", *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 3(2), 77–101

management of displacement crisis during the 2022 catastrophic flood) and the National NGOs, Expert Case Purposive Sampling has been selected. Only those concerned with this research will be selected for the interview.

This study uses purposive sampling to get insights from key informant interviews. The selection of participants has been based on their expertise, knowledge, and relevance to the research objectives. In the context of this research study, purposive sampling emerged as a careful choice for the selection of participants. This intentional sampling method allowed the researcher to purposely choose participants who possessed information-rich experiences or perspectives related to the government and its key institutions, like NDMA, which deals with disaster management. By selecting key informants such as experts or individuals who are directly involved with NDMA, purposive sampling ensured that the chosen participants could provide in-depth insights into the specific dimensions under investigation (Palinkas et al., 2015). Similarly, purposive sampling could be used as a strategic way to aim for cases that provide the most relevant information for the research questions. The technique is particularly important when we seek an in-depth understanding of the issue and study specific subgroups relevant to the research problem. (Patton, 1990). Furthermore, this sampling method is particularly ideal for selecting individuals who are especially knowledgeable or have experience in the study under consideration (Etikan, 2016).

3.6.1 Sample Strategy

The research used a “Precision criterion-based sampling strategy”, where a criterion for the UDCs selection was drawn. Criterion sampling is based on selecting cases that meet some predetermined criterion of importance (Patton, 1990). The criteria first the Displaced Person selection are that they must be displaced as a result of the 2022 floods and should have been affected during the displacement, while the government and NGOs officials were selected based on their thorough knowledge of the phenomenon at hand and should have carried out policy formulation or execution during the 2022 floods.

In order to guide researchers in undertaking qualitative research, no clear methods and rules are established for the establishment of sample size. Size determination is a matter of consideration. The researchers follow various guidelines in order to assess whether their own research sample is proper or not (Kindsiko & Poltimäe, 2024). Given the population of the area and this topic of

concern, the sample size was selected as such that it satisfies and fulfills the gaps that are of concern in this study. Therefore, for this research, interviews were conducted until the point of saturation was reached. In other words, interviews were being conducted until the researcher felt that the responses noted satisfied the aims of the study, that is, evaluating gaps in policy and protection measures for climate-induced displaced persons in Pakistan.

3.6.2 Sample Size

A total of 13 key informants' interviews have been conducted with climate-induced displaced persons. The number of participants has been kept at 13 as the researcher observed repeating themes. So, further interviews would have the same themes as already collected from the previous participants. The researcher observed that after the 10th interview, the theme repeated frequently among the views of the respondents. Therefore, the interviews have been limited to 13. Furthermore, Creswell & Poth (2016) note that a total of qualitative studies usually include a total of 10-25 interviews for in-depth analysis rather than statistical generalization. Besides, 3 interviews have been conducted with government officials. The three representatives are from different institutions that are directly or indirectly concerned with policy or the protection of CIDPs. Among the three government officials, one is from the "Ministry of Climate Change", the ministry is directly responsible for policy formulation regarding climate change and, therefore, for CIDPs. One person is from the "Federal Flood Commission". The commission prepares reports on floods and monitors them. The commission's insights remained helpful in understanding people's vulnerability to floods in Pakistan, which is one of the major sources of displacement. The third person is from the "National Disaster Management Authorities". Discussion with the NDMA official aimed at discussing findings from the CIDPs.

Table 3.1: Methodological Framework

UDC's	Data Analyzed From	Sampling Technique	Research Methods
UDC 1: Climate-Induced Displaced Person	District Khairpur	Purposive Sampling	Interviews
UDC 2: Government Officials and NGOs Representatives	NDMA & MoCC&EC and NGOs	Purposive Sampling	Interviews
UDC 3: International Legal Frameworks	International Conventions, UN Declarations, Guidelines	Purposive Sampling	Doctrinal Legal Analysis

The three UDCs relevant to this study include CIDPs, Government officials and NGOs representatives, and International legal frameworks. For the first UDC, which is CIDPs, the data is collected from the Khairpur region of the district Sindh through interviews and is based on purposive sampling. For the second UDS, Government officials from NDMA, MoCC&EC have been selected for interviews through purposive sampling. The last UDC for this thesis is International Legal Frameworks. The data source of this document includes international conventions, UN declarations, and guidelines. Three documents, for this study, have been purposely selected based on their relevance to the study. To analyze these documents, doctrinal legal analysis has been used.

Below is the summary of participants for in-depth and key informants' interviews for this research:

Table 3.2: Summary of Research Participants

Participants Group	Number of Participants	Methods of Data Collection
Displaced Persons	13	In-depth Interviews
Government Officials	3	Key Informant Interviews
NGO Representatives	2	Key Informant Interviews
Displaced Girls	17	Questionnaire
Total	32	

Table 3.3: Key-informants' interviews

Institution	Designation/Position	Number of interviews	Methods of Data Collection
Ministry of Climate Change	Deputy Secretary	1	Semi-structured interview
Ministry of Water	Sub-Engineer Floods	1	Semi-structured interview
National Disaster Management Authority	Chief of the Research Department	1	Semi-structured interview
Total	3		

In order to include a gender perspective and experience with climate-induced displacement, the research has been extended to females from the concerned area. For data collection, a questionnaire was distributed among the affected girls. For data collected, initially, two girls, who were affected by the 2022 floods, were located, and they filled the questionnaire. These two girls were then asked to locate other such females from the Khairpur district of Sindh. Through their help, the questionnaire, in the form of a Google Form, was distributed among them. A total of 15 others, alongside the two initial respondents, responded to the online Google form. The data from the

questionnaire have been assessed through cross-tabulation on Stata software. Given the difficulty of accessing females in person and the possible number of responses, no specific limit has been defined for the number of female respondents (sample size); the views of all the respondents (the maximum number who could respond to the questionnaire) have been analyzed.

3.7 Locale

Rationale for Locale Selection

“District Khairpur” of Sindh province has been selected as a case study for gaining insight into the plight of people during the 2022 floods and to evaluate the government’s policy and protection adequacy during the floods. Interviews will be conducted in Khairpur district, which was among the submerged districts in the 2022 flood. Khairpur witnessed the highest number of displacements due to floods. The chart below shows 4 districts of Sindh having the most displacement. Khairpur, being at the top, witnessed the maximum number of a total of 1,218,177 displaced persons, followed by Larkana 1,071,333 and Kashmore 311,262, and Shikarpur 120,000.

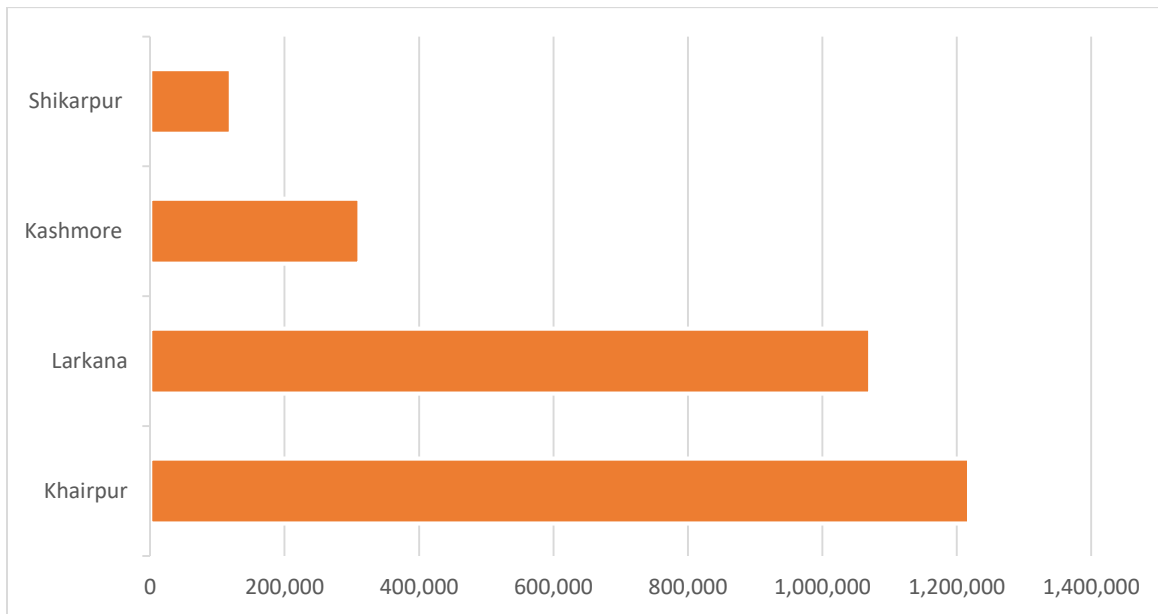


Figure 4: Displacement from 2022 floods

(Data Source: PDMA—Sindh)

Geography of the Locale

Sindh is categorized into three climatic zones: Siro, which forms the upper region and is centered on Jacobabad; Wicholo is the middle region, centered in Hyderabad; and Lar, which is the lower region and is centered on Karachi. Data from 1960-2010 indicates that in Sindh, the average precipitation is 160mm/ year. Sindh province is exposed to drought with occasional, yet extreme rainfall, which often results in heavy flooding. Sindh has witnessed various persistent, spanning over years. The periods of 1968-69, 1971-74, 1985- 87, and 1999-2002 are the most notable, causing damage to crops, livestock, soil, and ecosystems, and causing massive migrations. From the data on precipitation, the region’s vulnerability to floods cannot be foreseen. Floods were usually not that common in Sindh. The phenomenon of flooding is connected to the downstream flow of water through the Indus River (Govt of Sindh, 2022). The occasional floods have become common due to climate change, resulting in the migration of a large number of people

Khairpur district of Sindh, residing in the lower climate zone, was amongst the hardest hit districts in the 2022 flood, submerging 89 out of its 91 total union councils (Mashaik, 2022).

Table 3.4: Geography of District Khairpur

District area in Sq. Km	The area of Khairpur is 16,076 sq.km	
Coordinates	The Longitude of the area is 68o 10' 20" to 70o 10' 58" East, Latitude 26o 7' 57" to 27o 44' 9"North	
Surrounding Districts	Sukkur and Shikarpur in North Sanghar and Shaheed Benazirabad in South Larkana, and Naushahro Feroze in West India in East	
Climate Conditions	Hot and Semi-Arid	
Coldest Month	January	
Hottest Month	June	
Seasonal Temperatures	Max Mean (Degree Centigrade)	Min Mean (Degree Centigrade)

Spring (March and April)	37.88	20.91
Dry Summer (May and June)	44.66	28.84
Wet Summer (July to September)	41.39	28.41
Autumn (October to November)	35.20	19.50
Winter (December to February)	26.63	11.01
Average Rainfall	127.65 mm/year	
Physiographic Features	Khuth Lake, Bakri Waro Lake, Kot Diji Fort	

(Source MHVRA Study)

Chapter 4

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 A Brief Overview

Over the recent years, climate change has been increasingly recognized not only as an environmental crisis, but also as a catalyst for the displacement of the human population. However, no clear and universal legal protection exists per se for persons displaced by climate-related factors; the existing ones either differ on the legal and definitional aspects of CIDPs or inadequately cover all the prospects of the displaced population. This ambiguity and inconsistencies in CIDP's legal status present serious challenges for policy development and protection mechanisms, particularly in vulnerable countries like Pakistan.

The first portion seeks to establish the conceptual and legal foundation for understanding Climate-Induced Displacement. By doing so, this segment critically examines the existing international legal frameworks, including 'Guiding Principle on Internal Displacement', 'the 1951 Refugee Convention', and 'Nansen Initiative' to uncover the legal discrepancies and inconsistencies in the international legal framework for the protection of climate-induced displacement and the national laws, particularly that of Pakistan.

In the case of Pakistan, a country that has been severely impacted by climate change, resulting in a large number of human displacements. Legal ambiguities in defining and protecting climate-induced displacement, however, hinder the development of coherent and effective national policies and protection mechanisms. The absence of a universal definition translates into fragmented institutional roles, policy vagueness, and a lack of targeted intervention for climate-induced displaced persons. This portion underlies the ground for evaluating how these inconsistencies and ambiguities in the international legal framework cascade down into Pakistan's policy landscape, thereby hindering its development agenda related to climate justice, human security, and displacement governance.

This chapter also seeks to uncover the gaps in protection measures through thematic analysis and cross-tabulation. The latter have only been applied to a section, which aims to investigate the gender perspective of government assistance and to explore their lived experiences with displacement

4.2 Document Analysis

4.2.1 Defining climate-induced displacement

Climate-induced displacement is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that is understood differently by different stakeholders and research scholars of this field. The various definitions and their complex nature, in turn, contribute to the ambiguity of the term and to the inconsistencies in international legal frameworks.

One of the widely cited definitions of climate-induced displacement is proposed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM): "*Climate-Induced Displacement refers to a condition where individuals or groups are forced to leave their habitual residence, either temporarily or permanently, due to sudden or slow and gradual changes in environment caused by climate change, and the movement undertaken is either within the state or across the international border*" (IOM, 2008; Salik et al., 2020). This definition by IOM, however, is subjected to various interpretations. Zürn, (2018) chooses not to use this definition of "climate migration" because he considers it overstating climate change as the reason of displacement when there could be other reasons of displacement including poverty. As an alternative Zürn uses the term "climate affected

migration” that acknowledges the multi causality of the term. Multicausality stipulates that displacement could be the result of a host of simultaneous reasons that are influenced by climate change, which makes it extremely difficult to disentangle from other factors like poverty and governance failure, especially in the case of slow-onset disasters.

Nansen Initiative’s¹¹ “Protection Agenda” uses the term disaster displacement, which is defined as, “*the situation where people are forced to abandon their homes as a result of disaster or due to the impacts of foreseeable natural hazard.*” (Initiative, 2015). Such displacement results when people are (i) exposed to (ii) a natural hazard in a situation (iii) where they lack the ability to (iv) withstand the impacts of natural hazards. Nansen initiative recognizes that the multi-causality of the phenomenon of displacement, as the people's resilience could be undermined by a multitude of demographic, social, political, and economic factors. It is not exclusively a disaster driver; rather, the term disasters includes the impacts of climate change.

Maria Stavropoulou (1994) defines it more broadly by including all forms of involuntary movement, such as expulsion, deportation, forced resettlement, relocation, and transfer, both across the national border and within the state. The term involuntary is distinguished from flight, as the latter usually refers to voluntary movement from an area of habitual residence (Boesch & Goldschmidt, 1983).

The Center for Participatory Research and Development defines climate-induced displacement as a cause and consequence phenomenon.

Cause Dimension: climate-induced hazardous events and their impacts

Consequence Dimension: socio-economic deprivations and violation of human rights

Recent policy discussion focuses mainly on the cause dimension that puts more responsibility on the national government. the consequence dimension is less discussed as it bears responsibility on the international community to design legal frameworks to address the crisis of displacement and to protect those displaced.

¹¹ launched in 2012 by Norway and Switzerland, Nansen’s Initiative was a state-led, bottom-up, consultative process aimed at building consensus on the protection of people displaced across borders due to climate related events. Nansen’s initiative is one of the few document that talks about climate-induced displacement.

4.2.2 Ambiguities involved in defining the terminology

Various terminologies are being used for the people displaced by climate change-related factors. These terminologies include: climate-induced displacement, climate migration, climate refugees etc. They carry significant ambiguities, as there is no universally agreed-upon definition of the term (Hossain et al., 2021). The Following ambiguities have so far been observed:

4.2.2.1 Lack of Universally Accepted Definition

There doesn't exist a universally agreed-upon terminology for climate-induced mobility. Various terms like "climate-induced displacement", "climate migrants", and "climate refugee" are being used for such mobility. However, little consensus has been developed so far on the correct terminology among authors, scholars, governments, and practitioners.

IOM has a working definition of climate-induced displacement according to which it refers to the mobility of people due to sudden or progressive changes in climate, either voluntary or involuntary, cross-border or within the state. However, this definition of climate migrants doesn't consider it a legal standard. Rather, it is 'non-normative'¹² and 'non-perspective'¹³.

Moreover, certain agencies use the term "climate refugees", but that too is not valid, as the 1951 Refugee Convention does not mention the climate-related factors as a criterion for refugee. This term 'climate refugee is usually avoided by experts and practitioners to avert undermining the international legal regimes for refugees.

4.2.2.2 Multi-causality of Movement

¹² The definition of climate induced displacement is viewed as non-normative in the sense that it lacks a universally binding legal standards or obligation for protection. It also means that no single international legal framework defines or governs it. See: McAdam, Jane. "*Climate Change, Forced Migration, and International Law*". Oxford University Press, 2012 (McAdam, 2012).

¹³ Climate induced displacement is non-perspective as it does not have a unified theoretical or policy framework that, often times, leads to inconsistent interpretations and application in global governance and humanitarian responses to the displaced communities and individuals. See: Bettini, Giovanni. "*Climate Barbarians at the Gate? A critique of apocalyptic narratives on 'climate refugees'*." *Geoforum* 45 (2013): 63–72 (Bettini, 2013).

Migration cannot exclusively be considered the result of climate change; rather, it is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon. Climate change exacerbates the preexisting stressors like poverty, overpopulation, landlessness, economic downturns, and underdevelopment. Thereby, such factors result in the forced displacement of the local residents from the places of their original habitat. The decision to move from a place of habitual residence is also greatly influenced by a multitude of other social, cultural, and political factors. Cazabat (n.d.) argues that these factors make it extremely difficult to distinguish involuntary displacement from voluntary migration, especially in the case of slow-onset climate-related disasters.

4.2.2.3 Distinction between voluntary and forced movement

The line between voluntary and forced movement is blurred. Many of the displaced fall into the “grey, middle zone” that is displaced by elements of both voluntary choice and coercion. The involvement of choice brings the notion of mobility to the category of ‘migration’. The notion of mobility is inappropriate, particularly in cases where the “choice” to move is compelled by the underlying factors of poverty and environmental degradation. Therefore, Kälin, (2010) opines that it becomes difficult to draw the line of distinction between forced movement and involuntary displacement, particularly in cases where people are forced to leave their habitual habitat due to climate change but do not qualify as refugees under the international legal frameworks.

4.2.2.4 Internal vs. Cross-Border Movement

Many definitions, including the one proposed by IOM, cover both within-state and across-border movement. However, studies largely focus only on internal displacement, while the cross-border dimension of displacement is ignored or, in some cases, it is explicitly excluded from the studies. Climate-induced displacement is likely to remain within the state. Cross-border movement is expected only in the case of low-lying islands that are on the verge of submersion and are losing territory. They cross the border, as they have no option but to stay within the border.

4.2.2.5 Temporary Vs. Permanent Displacement

Alongside, there is the problem of temporary and permanent displacement. For example, displacement may be short-term in the case of sudden-onset disasters, while slow-onset disasters are likely to relocate people permanently to regions other than their habitual residence. (Mayer,

2011) argues that it is difficult to assess when temporary migration becomes permanent or remains cyclical.

The existing legal regimes do not adequately cover, in their definition, the complexities involved in the definition of climate-induced displacement. While relying on a narrow definition of climate migration, the international legal frameworks overlook its complex and varying nature. As a result, national and international humanitarian responses to the displacement crisis remain inconsistent, often overwhelmed

4.2.3 Ambiguities and Inconsistencies in International Legal Frameworks for CID

The international legal framework for climate-induced displacement is marked by significant ambiguities and inconsistencies that hinder the progressive development of protection mechanisms for those displaced. The problem is not the absence of legal regimes, but their contested nature, as multiple legal regimes exist simultaneously, which makes it difficult for scholars to define and propose the precise response in the international legal framework for the protection of climate-induced displacement.

The very nature of the terminology of “climate migration” or “climate refugee” is contested. Such terminologies have no legal basis in international laws and are not endorsed (Lyster & Burkett, 2018).

This chapter will analyze the 4 major international legal documents (treaties and conventions) related to Displacement. The focus of the study will be to point out the gaps and inconsistencies in climate-induced displacement.

4.2.3.1 1951 Refugee Convention

The problem of forced migration is not new; rather, it has roots back in centuries. The first half of the 20th century witnessed immense transformations as the world was suffering profound changes with long-established empires falling apart and monarchies dismantling. The side effects of such changes were largely felt in the form of forced migrants. Even though the problem was not unique but no legal protection existed to protect their interests. Organizations like the League of Nations and the International Refugee Organization somehow tackled the problem of persecution, but it wasn't until 1945, after the end of WWII, that the international community set out to seriously discuss the issue. UN came up with the Refugee Convention in 1951—the only one of its nature

to have binding force and adequately protect the refugee. However, given the climate changes in recent years, the Convention falls short in addressing all the refugees. Climate-induced displacement has not been discussed in the organization and does not qualify for refugee status, which leaves a huge policy gap in the international legal framework for the protection of climate-induced displacement.

Article 1 of the 1951 Refugee Convention (UNHCR, 1951) describes refugees as people who have been displaced on the,

“...well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of religion, race, nationality, members of a particular social group, and political opinion” and

“...The status of refugee is applicable only to an individual outside their country of origin.”

Climate-induced displacement, however, is neither covered by the wording nor the definition of this convention, as climate and its impacts are not being regarded as “persecution” in the general sense of the definition of the term persecution (Foster, 2007). However, those displaced by sudden-onset disasters who are denied assistance by the government in order to punish or marginalize are considered to be persecuted and are eligible for refugee status (Kälin, 2010). However, such instances of displacement are rare. Mostly displaced due to the direct or foreseeable impacts of climate-related disasters such as rising sea level, cyclones, and floods, which do not constitute ‘persecution’ as legally defined.

Moreover, the 1951 Refugee Convention emphasizes individual rights, while ignoring the collective rights of climate migrants. This document, particularly when applied by states and the UNHCR, prioritizes return over assimilation, whereas CIDPs need to be considered permanent migrants and should not be destined to live in an unprotected shelter indefinitely.

Alongside, the refugee convention does not protect the displaced before they have moved from the country of their origin.

“This Convention shall not apply to a person who is recognized by the competent authorities of the country in which he has taken residence as having the rights and obligations which are attached to the possession of the nationality of that country.”

Therefore, the only way for a person, displaced by climate-related factors, to acquire the status of refugee, as defined by the convention, is to cross the national border, which they often do through risky means.

The definition of the convention is inadequate, as it does not cover the various aspects of climate change that may cause the displacement, such as the loss of livelihood and the problem of food security. Therefore, the indirect effects of climate change may severely harm an individual or a group, which constitutes persecution. But climate-induced displacement itself has not been placed in the definition of persecution as provided by the convention.

Furthermore, the convention requirement of exile is another obstacle, according to which a refugee is one who has moved from their home country. But, as suggested by Kalin Typologies (Kälin, 2010), majority of the climate-displaced displaced become Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and remain within the state boundary, and are subject to the rights and entitlements of ordinary citizens of the concerned state. As far as the role of the International community is concerned for IDPs, they are the subject of “soft law” that does not carry any binding force. This is because the principle of state sovereignty necessitates an international response without express invitation by the state concerned (McAdam & Saul, 2009).

4.2.3.2 UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

The UN Guiding principle is a landmark document for the protection of IDPs. However, the document falls short as it does not cover the complex and unique realities presented by climate change.

UN Guiding Principles mention, alongside conflict displacement, disaster-induced displacement. The principles define IDPs as:

“internally displaced persons are persons or groups of persons who have been forced to leave their habitual habitat due to.....natural or human-made disasters who have not crossed the international border.”

This article uses the word “natural disaster”. Thus, it fails to explicitly mention ‘climate change’. The word natural disaster could be subject to multiple interpretations, as a result of which, the principles' application could be subjected to policy inconsistencies across the states. The principles

do not extend their scope to the climate-induced displaced persons who have crossed the border. Thus, leaving them in a state of uncertainty regarding their fate in the recipient country. they do not talk about their status and entitlements in that country, leaving them at the mercy of the state.

Further, the UN Guiding Principle explicitly covers climate-induced displacement, but UNHCR's institutional mandate extends only to conflict-induced displacement, leaving climate-displaced persons at the mercy of the national government, who often, due to inadequate resources, fail to protect them (McAdam, 2009). Thus, the UNHCR mandate leaves climate-induced displacement in an institutional gap.

Moreover, there exists an implementation gap. Given the nature of the international legal framework for climate-induced displacement as “soft laws”, their implementation relies heavily on the national legal system and the political will of the state concerned. The UN Guiding Principles, similarly, is a soft law, which does not have binding force.

“Although they do not constitute a binding instrument.....”

In addition, the Guiding Principles have failed to adequately address the concerns of slow-onset disasters. At times, climate change may not cause immediate triggers of displacement but erode the habitability over time. It may unleash slow-onset disasters like salinization and sea level rise. Biermann & Boas, (2010) argue that the language of the UN Guiding Principles does not align with the temporal and anticipatory nature of climate-induced displacement. Alongside, the Principles states that:

“In cases of disasters, unless the safety and health of those affected require their evacuation.”

This article on the principles allows displacement in disaster as an evacuation. But, climate change-induced displacement is not always temporary and immediate; rather, it can be permanent and gradual, particularly in the case of slow-onset disasters.

Principle 3 states that:

“National authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction.”

This principle rightly assigns responsibilities to the authorities of the state concerned. However, it fails to acknowledge the cross-border nature of climate-induced displacement, which is usually

caused by the emission of greenhouse gases from the wealthier countries, thus ignoring the principle of climate justice.

Principle 4.2 suggests that:

“Certain internally displaced persons, such as children, especially unaccompanied minors, expectant mothers, mothers with young children.....shall be entitled to protection and assistance required by their condition....”

It results in ignoring many others in a condition of vulnerability, it fails to protect those who lose their ancestral lands to the climate disasters, or young girls married due to poor economic conditions in the shelter camps.

4.2.3.3 Nansen Initiatives

Nansen Initiatives was a consultative process launched by Norway and Switzerland to provide protection for people displaced across the border by climate-related disasters. The initiatives eventually led to the formulation of “Protection Agenda (2015)” — a non-binding document. It was a forward movement in acknowledging CIDPs; however, the document falls short on various fronts.

Nansen Initiatives are particularly criticized for their non-binding nature. The Protection Agenda is a soft law that does not impose any obligation on the state where displacement occurs. Thus, due to their political and economic constraints are not bound to take certain measures for CIDPs.

Alongside, the Initiatives are being criticized for their overemphasis on cross-border displacement due to disaster, while a large number of CIDPs remain internally displaced. This limited scope of the initiative makes a vast number of displaced persons outside the scope of its solutions and advocacy. Moreover, while the Nansen initiatives recognize the current refugee law, such as the 1951 refugee convention, they deliberately ignore allotting a separate legal category, such as climate refugee or environmental migrants, for those displaced due to climate-related factors.

Besides, the initiatives encourage the countries facing the problem of displacement due climate climate-related events to shoulder the responsibility in protecting CIDPs. They, however, do not provide a framework for international cooperation and burden sharing. This means that the many vulnerable, who are often poor and resource-constrained, must tackle the problem themselves.

Such a principle violates the notion of climate justice, according to which those responsible for climate change should equally share the responsibility for protecting CIDPs.

Finally, much of the consultation for the Nansen initiatives was state-driven, without including inputs from those affected by climate change, such as indigenous people, women, and youth.

4.3 ILF Related to CID: Impacts on Pakistan's Policy Development and Protection Mechanism

The absence of an adequate and all-comprehensive, binding international legal framework for people displaced by climate-related events leads to a delay in Pakistan's national policy development. The government, as witnessed during the 2022 floods, becomes active only when a natural calamity hits the country or parts of the country. This is despite the establishment of various institutions at the national, provincial, and district levels. NDMA and PDMA establishment was a landmark achievement in this direction. However, their response is mostly to any climate-related disaster is reactive rather than proactive.

The absence of a universal definition of climate-induced displacement in the international legal framework hinders the development of a comprehensive, protective policy at the national level. Defining the CIDPs helps them provide their distinct identity as CIDPs. Identity, in turn, can make them recognized by the government in different policy and legal discourses. Without a clear identity, embedded in a comprehensive and universal definition of CIDPs, national governments like that of Pakistan are likely to fail at distinguishing CIDPs from other affected persons. As a result, the national policies would be unlikely to mention explicitly the needs and protection of. For example, the current national climate change and disaster-related policies mention little about those displaced by climate-related factors.

Moreover, due to the lack of clear guidance on how to operationalize the legal and protection mechanisms, national institutions usually have no clear boundaries within which each one has to operate. For example, Shah et al. (2020) find that Disaster Management Authorities suffer from jurisdictional overlap, duplication of responsibilities, lack of budgetary and non-budgetary resources, and coordination at all levels. Similarly, the national and provincial disaster management authorities have an overlapping boundary of operations. Such overlapping

boundaries result in ineffective coordination and operations when a disaster hits. In an interview, a senior official from the “Ministry of Climate Change” observed that,

“We do have policies at place on climate change, but the problem begins when a climate-related event hits the country: we perform poorly in the implementation stage. Operations are not carried out according to the way they are designed. Discrepancies exist that affect the overall process of policy implementation. This may be primarily due to the way the lack of coordination among the various concerned institutions”

Besides, there does not exist a mechanism for shared responsibilities, where states other than those affected could contribute to the protection of CIDPs by providing financial assistance to the state concerned. Climate change, however, is most visible in the poor global south. For example, Pakistan, though contributing only 0.8% to the global carbon emission, is ranked among the top ten most affected countries from climate change by the global climate risk index. The absence of the mechanism of shared responsibility put all the responsibility on the national government. Thus, they can not adopt laws and measures that are supported by adequate resources and the principle of shared responsibility.

Climate disasters may amplify the pre-existing inequalities. Women, children, and the rural poor are the most in need of protection. But the international legal frameworks do not address the multilayered vulnerabilities experienced in the context of climate change, especially when traditional means of livelihood are destroyed, for example, the fishing and farming rural poor of Pakistan destroy their livelihood to the monsoon floods. Thus, without identifying the climate-specific vulnerabilities, aid and protection measures are unlikely to correctly prioritize those most in need of protection, and national policy and legal frameworks may lack gender-sensitive and climate-aware programming.

4.4 Thematic Analysis

4.4.1 Thematicizing and Coding

Table 4.1: Thematic Chart

Themes	Sub-themes	Codes	Excerpt
Exposure to Hazardous environment and Survival	Immediate problem	Education, Travelling in water, living under an open sky, absence of food and water	“Education was disturbed.” “No safe drinking was available: those who drank it would become ill.” “
	Livelihood Loss	Human lives and livestock loss	“Our agriculture, our houses—everything suffered.”
	Community Support and Self-Help	Community work in the absence of state help, community customs of gender segregation, removing water ourselves, self-help	“we migrated to higher places ourselves, no one guided us” “our relatives in a different village provided us shelter” “During the three months (of displacement) the villagers tried themselves to make outflowing channels for water” “We set our own plastic tents when displaced.”
State Neglect and Institutional Inaction	Poor implementation of disaster response	Delays in relief efforts, poor coordination among institutions and between institutions and NGOs, financial issues at the institutional level, poor	“No representative from the government side approached us, nor do the media team: we were all left to our own fate” “No transport was available.”

		communication with affected	
	Provision of Basic Services	Lack of proper sanitation and schools, unavailability of medicine, and a proper shelter system	“My own daughter was diagnosed with malaria. and no medical camp was set up in the area at that time.” “
Flaws in Distribution of Aid	Discrimination in distribution	Ration going to those who have influence or political links, aid on the basis of political links, powerful persons received it first	“The survey does not cover the loss and damage of government employees.” “There was a lot of corruption. They were building homes for selected people, giving everyone a basic two-room structure without a roof — you had to build the roof yourself.” “If you had political links, you got quicker help.”
	Mismanagement of Aid (Financial):	Specific persons received help, and corruption cases were recorded	“Only those sitting in tents were given a little money. Those who shifted elsewhere—rented houses, relatives’ places—received nothing.”

			“There was a lot of corruption.”
	Marginalization of affected communities	Interior villages neglected	“The government official who claimed to be there for our help, but they never came back”; “we had to do everything on ourselves”

Structural Pressures and Underlying Causes	Structural and environmental fragility	Fragile infrastructure, poverty, and an ineffective canal system	“When the floods hit, we had nothing to save—no money, no strong house, nothing that could have helped us just to evacuate ourselves safely.”
	Weak governance and planning to mitigate the impacts of climate-related events	Weak coordination, lack of preemptive actions, local landlords' role, and absence of risk reduction strategy.	“In an attempt to protect their areas, they deliberately obstructed the natural flow of water, which diverted the floodwater to other vulnerable communities. Despite the severity of the issue, the government has taken no action, and the channels still remain blocked.”

Recovery and Future Vulnerability to Climate-Related Events	Recovery Efforts	Financial assistance to recover for the loss and damages, urge for policies and actions	<p>“The government provided us Rs-5000 per acre for house building, but on that one acre, we have spent a total of RS-60,000 to 70,000.”</p> <p>“Only those sitting in tents were given a little money. Those who shifted elsewhere—rented houses, relatives’ places—received nothing.”</p>
	Uncertain future	No lesson learnt,	“If it happens again same will repeat.”
Policy Gaps and CIDPs Recognition	No CIDPs recognition or Identity	Lack of legal status, a special identity as CIDPs	<p>“We did not have an ID that showed us as CIDPs.”</p> <p>“Special identity i.e. CIDPs, would have helped us get ration easily and would have distinguished us from the rest”</p>
Resilience	Government failure to take preemptive action	Canal and drainage system.	“in our area, no preemptive steps were taken. For example, the drainage system that should have been in place — where waste drains through pipelines into a larger disposal system, and eventually into a river or sea — that system was disrupted by local encroachment” P4 Q6
	Local capacity to mitigate the impacts of climate-related events	Awareness session, socio-economic mechanism, poor infrastructure”	“We do not know how to cope with such disaster,” P11

			“Our muddy houses started to collapse when the rain did not stop as usual,” P1
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Table 4.2: Coding for thematic analysis

Codes	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7
Translation	Participant 1 (CIDP)	Participant 2 (CIDP)	Participant 3 (CIDP)	Participant 4 (CIDP)	Participant 5 (CIDP)	Participant 6 (CIDP)	Participant 7 (CIDP)

Codes	P8	P9	P10	P13	P14	S1
Translation	Participant 8 (CIDP)	Participant 9 (CIDP)	Participant 10 (CIDP)	Participant 13 (CIDP)	Participant 14 (NGO member)	A senior officer from MoCC

4.4.2 Theme 1: Vulnerability to Climate-Related Events and Coping Mechanisms

According to the Global Climate Risk Index, Pakistan ranks among the top ten countries that are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts. Over the past few decades, cataclysmic floods, persistent droughts, and rising temperatures have greatly impacted Pakistan in terms of human, financial, and infrastructure losses.

This theme captures the multidimensional exposure of the people to the cataclysmic impacts of climate-related events. The theme not only reflects the physical devastations brought about by climate change, but also the underlying socio-economic and governance fragilities, which

eventually, in cases of natural catastrophes, translate into devastation, as such inadequate protection measures left the population unprotected and exposed. Interviews conducted with the CIDPs demonstrate that such vulnerabilities are not accidental, as usually attributed to the natural causes of climate change, but are made as a result of a lack of proper planning, weak governance, and the absence of adaptive mechanisms.

Viewed within the PAR model, these vulnerabilities are the result of or exacerbated by “root causes” such as poverty, discrimination, and marginalization, which eventually translates to “dynamic pressure” such as weak infrastructure and absence of disaster planning, and finally “unsafe conditions” like exposure to floodplain without adequate protective measures. The intersection of these elements consequently leads to displacement”. The normative concept of law and policies comes into operation once people are being displaced. The state, by law, is responsible for providing shelter and safe conditions to those displaced. However, the interviews show that there exists a gap between what the police promise and what the government actually delivers.

4.4.2.1 Sub-theme 1: Immediate Struggles

The 2022 flood exposed people to unsafe conditions. Beyond economic and physical loss, people, particularly women, children, and elders, face considerable challenges during the floods in the form of self-evacuation, water-borne diseases, lack of proper shelter, and camp security. The absence of a timely response by the government during the heavy rainfall exposes people to evacuating the place themselves. P2 noted that:

“No transport system was available, as the roads were all flooded with water. We left our homes only with the essential things like a few clothes, shoes, and some other stuff of food and water. The government teams appeared only when we were totally displaced: no such assistance was provided during the displacement process”.

P3 stated:

“One of my brothers got his leg fractured during the process of displacement, when we were moving from our village. Being trapped in water, carrying the essential items, and getting a family member's leg fractured was one of the most difficult parts.”

The government's timely intervention would have prevented such turbulent displacement. The problem arises when government agencies do not intervene on time, or their operational and logistical capacities do not address the problem at hand.

Apart from the initial stage of the displacement and migration, CIDPs remained exposed to unsafe conditions after relocation to a place that they consider safe. Participants referred to this place as “*Unchi jaga*”, translated as “higher ground”, as the rainwater could not rise to that level.

“We migrated to higher places ourselves.”

In higher ground, where the migrants settle, the majority of the participants observed that they lived in tents. However, they remained exposed to water-borne diseases and problems like the absence of proper sanitation and lack of education. P5 argued that:

“At the time, malaria had spread severely — everyone from young kids to elders had fevers that would not go down”.

Immediate problems in the form of lack of shelter, health, and education continued to persist after displacement. P7 argued that:

“For 11 days, after displacement, we lived under the open sky, as there was no proper shelter.”

P7 stated:

“Firstly, schools were closed by the government. Even after that, we didn’t send our children to school for 3 months because the roads were not cleared. As for health, there were no facilities. Mosquitoes had spread disease, and children were suffering from diarrhea and vomiting — typical waterborne diseases. We used whatever medicine was available in nearby stores. There was no official medical camp or support.

These narratives reflect that for days after displacement, the government, primarily due to their incapacity, failed to provide the displaced with the most basic and essential services like shelter and medicine.

Moreover, exposure to unsafe conditions remained persistent even after rehabilitation. However, at this stage, many participants noted, with varying responses, that they have been compensated for their loss and damages they incurred and that the roads and other communication channels

were being rebuilt and restored soon after the water level receded. However, some areas, according to P12, still suffer from the water that was stored during the 2022 flood.

“Even when we relocated back to our villages, an abundance of water remained all around the village for many days.”

Apparently, the government did not activate its operation to remove water from the affected areas within the duration when people were displaced.

4.4.2.2 Sub-theme 2: Livelihood Loss

This theme reflects the loss of livelihood in the 2022 flood. The participants observed that the crises of displacement were exacerbated by the loss of livelihoods such as agriculture and livestock. P6 opined that:

“Our agriculture, our houses—everything suffered.”

The same respondent added that:

“If something like this happens again, I’m 100% sure that the agriculture of our area—Khairpur and Sukkur—will be completely destroyed. Wheat, bananas, mangoes, dates—all come from there. Last time, one of our relatives had 50 acres of land with 7,000 date trees—6,000 of them were destroyed. That’s what happened across the region.”

Without an alternative source of income, the loss of these primary income sources deepens the already existing poverty in the area Amponsah et al., (2023). The loss of livelihood to climate-related events hinders their ability to recover both psychologically and in material terms. In the latter case, loss of livelihood hinders their ability to recover, repeating the cycle of vulnerability. Government, by virtue of its responsibility to protect (R2P) doctrine and by the very law of the land, is responsible for the protection of displaced communities. Nevertheless, the respondents' experiences show that they have not been protected adequately.

4.4.2.3 Sub-theme 3: Community Support and Self-Help

In situations when government support was not available, the locals resorted to community support and self-help. Community support proves to be an effective mechanism in a situation of crisis

where an urgent and immediate response is necessary. Amid the 2022 flood, the respondent noted that the government response was either inadequate or delayed, in some cases totally absent, so they resorted to self-help and community work. When asked about the government's role during the displacement process, P3 argues that:

“The government did not provide us with any kind of assistance. We arranged everything ourselves.”

This narrative is a powerful reflection of government inaction driven by the institutional absence in times of crises, which, according to a senior research officer at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), is due to the fact that,

“Disaster management institutions largely suffer from funding problems and at times from coordination.”

Responding to the same question, P4 argued that:

“During the rains, the government provided us with those plastic sheets (shoppers) to cover roofs. But they were insufficient and very expensive in the market — prices went up 400–500%. We ended up doing the construction ourselves later.”

P8 argued that:

“It's been 2-3 years now, and no houses have been built. We had to rebuild them ourselves.”

These narratives highlight both the failure of the government in providing aid and the resilience of the local community. Rather than waiting for government aid, they resorted to building their houses by themselves despite the inflation. The respondents' stress on “inflation” and “high prices” and taking the responsibility of construction themselves reflects that survival rested on self-help.

P6, in response to a question related to the coping mechanism, argued:

“We also helped our neighbors, whose houses were on lower ground—we carried their belongings out on our shoulders. If not, their stuff would have been completely flooded.”

This narrative reflects that though every house was submerged, everyone would help others who were likely to be more affected. Despite the fact that P4's house was exposed, he, along with

others, helped the rest who were in a more disadvantaged position than themselves. Community support plays an instrumental role in coping with disasters.

These self-driven coping efforts are, however, not sufficient to enable people to properly cope the climate-related disasters. When asked the the role of infrastructure and resilience of people to combat the impact of climate change, S1 stated that,

“In developing countries like Pakistan, poverty and the coping capacity of people are two defining elements in combating the harsh impacts of climate-related events. Poor people usually have little or no coping capacity. For example, preventing poor people from building houses across the banks of rivers and in the way of water flow might prevent, to some extent, the issue of migration, but doing so would leave no alternative for the people concerned. Therefore, the government, before issuing directives, should provide them the alternatives in the form of a home and shelter.”

4.4.3 Theme 2: State Negligence and Institutional Inaction

This theme captures the widespread perception of the displaced persons. It states that the government disaster management institutions failed to manage and mitigate the impacts of the disaster, in this case flood, before, during, and after the disaster hit the region. This theme appeared across multiple interviews, with repeated accounts of abandonment, absence of adequate response, lack of institutional presence, and the absence of timely response. The participant narratives reflect a pattern of neglect in governance, resource allocation, and an effective and timely response mechanism.

This theme strongly aligns with the Braun & Clarke, (2006) semantic-level thematic analysis, where meanings are drawn directly from what the respondents express. Participants' views showed not only disappointment from the government, but a deep erosion of trust in the government's ability to manage crises and protect the vulnerable population when crises arise.

At the conceptual level, this theme not only reveals the administrative inefficiency but also the structural gaps in the state's Disaster Management Framework (DMF). DMF includes a lack of outreach, poor coordination, and a lack of equity in response. The presence of such inefficiencies translates to climate-related events having disproportionate impacts on the most disadvantaged communities, which in turn, reinforces the cycle of vulnerability and exclusion.

DDMA has an effective coordination and collaboration with other national and local agencies, which in turn adversely impacts the implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in District Khairpur. Weak coordination and collaboration are the result of various factors, including government procedures and practices. In District Khairpur, a top-down approach is usually followed by all government departments, which consumes too much time.

4.4.3.1 Sub-theme 1: Poor Implementation of Disaster Response

The perceived inefficiency and inadequacy in disaster response mechanisms by state authorities, particularly during the 2022 floods, have been captured through this sub-theme. Participants' narratives repeatedly refer to the sense of abandonment and disillusionment with government authorities, pointing to the failure of on-ground implementation of policies.

P1 stated:

“No representatives from the government side approached us, and neither did the media teams: we were all left to our own fate”

He further stated:

“The government did not assist us with any support.”

These narratives reflect the government's poor implementation of the policy, which obliges it the state to rescue humans first when a disaster hits an area. Some of the respondent stated that the government did help them, but the aid was either late or inadequate, which they considered did not prove instrumental, as the disaster caused massive damage and their eventual displacement.

P9 stated:

“The government response was that they would reach out to us in 2024 hours. But believe me within those 24 hours, the water level was continuously rising. When the government did not respond at that time, we reached out to NGOs who helped us a lot.”

The respondent's response clearly demonstrates a delay in government response, pointing to a failure in the timely activation of the disaster mechanism. the government's promise to respond “within 24 hours” was rendered ineffective by the escalating water level. This demonstrates a disconnection between planning and real-time execution. As the situation worsened, people could

not afford to move by themselves, which prompted them to seek help from NGOs. This shows that while the response may have been planned or on paper, the actual delivery was absent or poorly timed, leading to gaps in immediate relief and protection.

P10 Stated:

“When floods hit our area and we migrated, some NGOs and government agencies personnel came, but they did not ask about the areas that may have been covered or not. We did receive aid, but later, we found that some other migrants had received no aid at all. We did not know where to register or where to get aid. It was all chaotic.”

This viewpoint illustrates fragmentation and disorganization in the institutions’ response. A single point of contact from where all the disaster and aid agencies operate is important to protect everyone and distribute aid on an equitable basis, so that nobody is left.

While responding to the same question, P2 states:

“Despite the severity of the issue, the government has taken no action, and the channel of water flow still remains blocked.”

This shows that even after the whole episode of displacement and rehabilitation, the government is not much concerned about the problems that led to displacement. Blockade of the water channel, according to the respondents, was one of the factors that caused displacement from the flood. However, the respondent states that the problem still exists, and little has been done to prevent future displacement of the people from floods.

Moreover, delays in aid were another theme that consistently emerged from the respondents, respondent. While responding to the question regarding the most difficult part during displacement, they stated that the most difficult part was being without any shelter for almost 11 days. Only after 11 days did they get a tent from the government.

Asking about the type of coordination between NGO and government, P14 stated that,

“The government official did not contact us. In fact, they were operating in their own sphere and NGOs like ours in our own sphere. Due to the severity of the crisis and the quantity of water, the government agencies were unable to approach several areas.”

This statement highlights that the government did not coordinate with NGOs, who play an important role in disaster management. Many of the respondents confirmed that NGOs played a frontline role and that NGOs reached areas where the government logistics could not reach during and after the displacement. P9 argued that,

“What I observed is that in that situation, people needed support, but the government failed in providing that. However, a bunch of NGOs were working to recover the losses.”

He further added:

“The government response was that they would reach out to us in 24 hours. But believe me, within those 24 hours, the water level was continuously rising. When the government did not respond at that time, we reached out to NGOs who helped us a lot.”

Pakistan National Adaptation Policy (NAP) 2023 highlights that during the 2022 floods, coordination among federal and provincial governments and it suggests that the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) shall serve as the focal point of coordination in the future. The aforementioned narratives prove that this problem of coordination occurs during crisis situations

4.4.3.2 Sub-theme 2: The provision of Basic Services

This sub-theme captures state negligence and institutional inaction by drawing on their inability to provide basic facilities and essential items to CIDPs. Basic services mentioned repeatedly by the respondents include shelter, health, education, and food after displacement. During the rehabilitation process, respondents seemed to feel abandonment or complained about the delays in compensation for the loss and damages they incurred during the flood. Overall, the narratives illustrate that the government failed to provide adequate and timely assistance to the displaced communities and individuals. Thus, such an attitude on the part of the government instilled fear among the locals; future climate-related events can cause the same amount of damage as witnessed in the 2022 floods, if timely and effective measures are not taken. P5 stated that,

“My own daughter was diagnosed with malaria. and no medical camp was set up in the area at that time.”

P1 Stated:

“During the process of rehabilitation, the government provided us with Rs-5000 per acre of house building, but that one acre we have spent a total of RS-60,000 to 70,000 on the same land.”

This narrative indicates that the assistance provided by the government was not only delayed but also inadequate. The compensation the government provided at the rehabilitation stage was not enough to compensate for the loss and damage they incurred during the 2022 floods.

The tables and charts below show respondents' views about government assistance during and after their displacement:

Table 4.3: Matrix Coding Query

Participants	Post-Displacement Govt Assistance	Assistance at the Rehabilitation Stage
P1	Timely, but Inadequate	Inadequate and Delayed
P2	Inadequate and Delayed	Inadequate and Delayed
P3	Inadequate and delayed	Inadequate, but timely
P4	Inadequate and Delayed	Inadequate and Delayed
P5	Inadequate and Delayed	Inadequate and Delayed
P6	Extremely Inadequate	Inadequate, but timely
P7	Timely and Adequate	Adequate and timely
P8	No Assistance Provided	Inadequate and delayed
P9	Inadequate and Delayed	Inadequate and delayed
P10	Adequate	No compensation
P11	Inadequate but timely	Inadequate and Delayed

P12	Inadequate and delayed	No compensation
P13	No assistance provided	No compensation

The first column (P1-P13), in the above table, represents respondents, while the second and third columns represent each individual response about the government assistance provided to them either during the displacement or after their displacement.

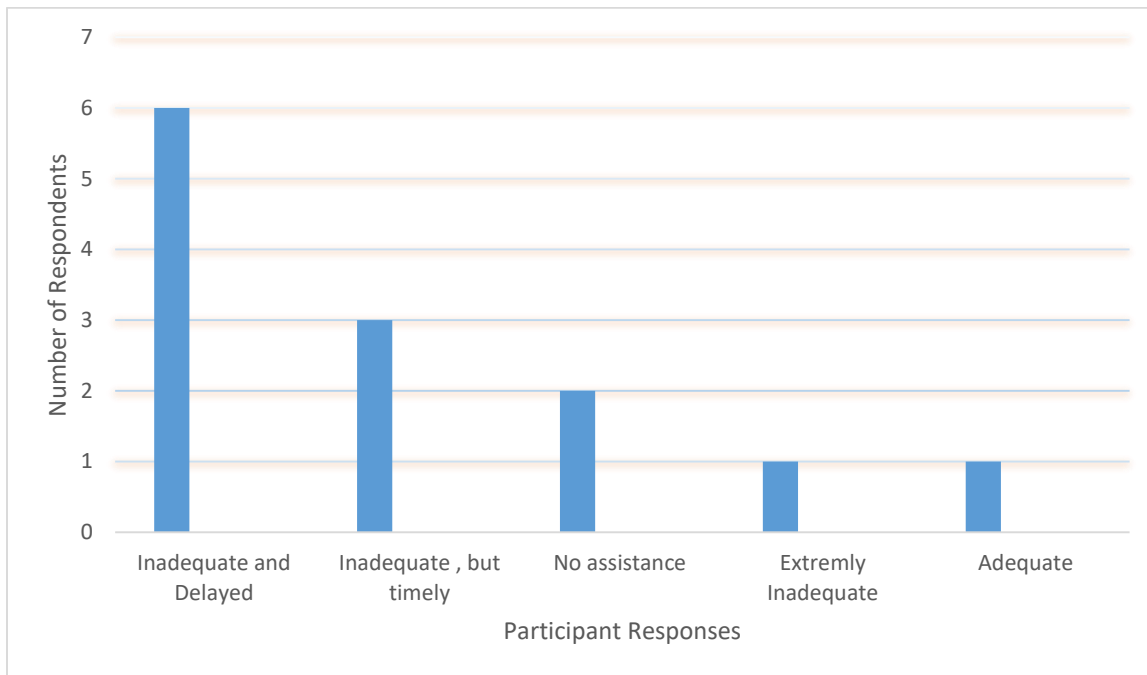


Figure 5: Post-displacement assistance

This chart shows the varying degrees of responses by the participants regarding government assistance after displacement. Among the 13 respondents, 6 stated that the government did provide them post-displacement assistance, but it was inadequate and delayed, while 3 persons considered government aid as inadequate but timely, and 2 persons received no assistance at all. Among the remaining three, one received extremely inadequate assistance, the other received inadequate, and the third one received inadequate.

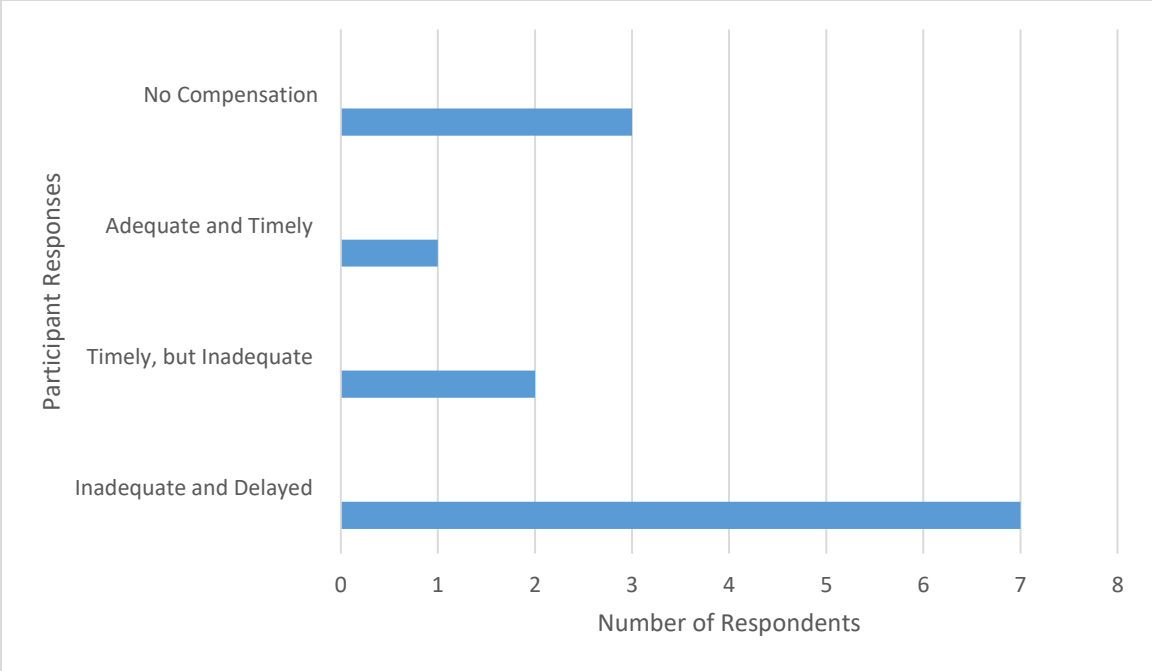


Figure 6: Loss and Damages Compensation

(Source: Author Estimations)

This chart reflects the compensation received by the people at the rehabilitation stage. Among the 13 participants, 7 received compensation, but they considered that it was inadequate and delayed, while 3 participants did not receive compensation for the loss and damages they incurred during the floods. However, 2 participants received assistance timely manner but it was inadequate, and 1 received adequate and timely assistance.

The data shows that a large number of participants received aid after displacement, when they migrated to safe places. However, the aid they received was not adequate to meet their demands. A slightly different, yet similar trend could be observed in compensation at the rehabilitation stage, where 7 among the 13 respondent consider that the aid provided by the government was not adequate and was not delivered soon after they moved back to their villages.

The responses of participants regarding government assistance during migration have not been recorded on a chart or table, as almost none of the respondents received protection during migration. This indicates that the government, particularly the disaster management institution, lacks the capacity in the form of funding and logistics to deal with emergency crisis situations. Or it is maybe because of the lack of coordination among the various disaster management institutions

and NGOs. While discussing findings with a senior member of the research team of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), he supported this view that NDMA has funding issues that, at times, hinder its operations, particularly while responding to crisis situations.

4.4.4 Theme 3: Flaws in Aid Distribution

This theme captures the dominant concern of the participants' accounts regarding the flaws in aid distribution: the systemic inefficiencies and inequities in how emergency assistance was deployed and accessed following the disaster and displacement. The narrative presented not only highlights the participants' dissatisfaction with the quantity of aid, but also the broader institutional shortcomings underpinning the reliance efforts. Given the flaws in aid distribution, as per the participants' accounts, the problem is not just about logistical failure during and after migration; rather, it is deeply rooted in the way institutions worked and responded to the situation of crisis i.e. the statements of both the migrated persons and that of the NGOs members shows that the flaws in aid distribution emerged primarily due to the lack of coordination among the various institution such as NDMA, army and NGOs. Some accounts indicate that aid was being distributed on the basis of political linkages i.e. those who have linkages in institutions got more aid than the rest.

4.4.4.1 Sub-theme 1: Discrimination in Distribution

This narrative consistently emerged as a sub-theme in participants' answers to the question regarding the fairness in aid distribution. Fairness and equity constitute an important aspect of the protection of vulnerable communities. This sub-theme explores how biases, whether intentional or systemic, compromised the effectiveness and integrity of relief efforts. In this regard, when asked about aid distribution, P4 stated:

“There was a lot of corruption. They were building homes for selected people, giving everyone a basic two-room structure without a roof— you had to build the roof yourself.”

While P10 stated:

“if you had political links, you got quicker help.”

This indicates that the aid distributed among the people, particularly the financial compensation at the rehabilitation stage, was largely based on the political linkages. Some accounts of the participants reflect that those having access to a senior official from the government received aid either on a priority basis or more than the rest.

Furthermore, when asked if aid was distributed equally among all the affected people, P6 stated:

“The surveyors who came only looked at those sitting in tents—not all the flood-affected houses. Only those sitting in tents were given a little money. Those who shifted elsewhere—rented houses, relatives' places—received nothing. Only the tent dwellers got a bit of assistance, and even then, there was a lot of corruption.”

When further asked about the kind and process of corruption in aid distribution, he added:

“The government employees there created a system where whatever money was coming in, they were taking their cut. For example, if someone got 20,000 rupees, they would take a 5,000 rupee “tax” and give only 15,000. That’s how it was happening.”

Such cases of mismanagement usually arise due to the lack of proper planning where the government fails to keep the record of the CIDPs and distribute aid from a single focal point coordinating all the local and provincial, and federal agencies.

4.4.4.2 Sub-theme 2: Mismanagement in Aid Distribution

This theme emerged as a result of the concerns raised repeatedly in participants' narratives. Alongside financial mismanagement and discrimination in aid distribution, they referred to logistic and administrative mismanagement in aid distribution. P2, when asked about how they received aid, stated that,

“The distribution camps and designated spots became so overcrowded that it was extremely difficult to access assistance. Due to poor management, individuals like us—who place a high value on dignity and self-respect—often choose not to seek aid, as doing so in such chaotic conditions could compromise our sense of dignity.”

This narrative indicates that the system failed to anticipate the volume of displaced person and their needs. An effective system distributes aid in a phase of location-diversified manner. Chaotic distribution, as referred to by the respondent, usually results in discrimination and exclusion, particularly of the vulnerable groups such as women, children, and elders.

4.4.5 Theme 4: Structural Pressures and Underlying Causes

The 2022 floods in Khairpur District exposed deep-rooted structural pressures and underlying causes that enlarged the disaster's impact. A key factor was structural and environmental fragility, as many affected communities were living near a weak river, a poorly managed system, and also lacked drainage systems. Neglected infrastructure and environmental management made the region highly vulnerable to extreme weather. Along with this, weak governance and planning played a critical role, with participants highlighting the absence of early warning systems, disaster preparedness, and relocation strategies. Local authorities were unprepared and reactive, revealing a lack of coordination and long-term climate resilience planning. These underlying issues turned a climate event into a large-scale displacement crisis.

4.4.5.1 Sub-Theme 1: Structural and environmental fragility

This sub-theme reflects the long-ignored structural and environmental fragility, which not only exacerbates the impacts of climate-related disasters but also causes displacement. People, having fragile infrastructure and environment, are likely to be impacted greatly by climate change events.

The majority of the participants were of the opinion that their infrastructure was not developed enough to withstand the onslaught of disaster. Alongside, coping mechanisms are obstructed by the socio-economic environment of the people. P9 noted that:

“When the floods hit, we had nothing to save—no money, no strong house, nothing that could have helped us just to evacuate ourselves safely. We live hand-to-mouth, so we could not even afford to arrange transport to shift our belongings to a safe place, a place where we were to set a tent. We left everything behind, which on our return was buried under the ruins of our collapsed house. If we had resources, maybe we could have prepared or stayed, but being poor, we had no choice but to leave.”

This narrative shows that the disadvantaged communities have little or no money that could be utilized for building strong infrastructure. Besides, their problem became worse when, in the absence of governmental disaster agencies, they could not afford basic facilities, during and after the displacement. Similarly, P12 stated:

“Our mud-built houses start to collapse the moment heavy rain starts. Roads break down every time there is flooding, and the canal system has not worked properly for years. Alongside, there is no working drainage system, so water, in case of heavy rain, stands for days and weeks, and even months and destroying everything and spreading diseases. We feel exposed every time the weather changes”.

The participants point out the direct collapse of mud-built houses and repeated road failures as evidence of weak, non-resilient infrastructure. The ineffective canal and drainage system shows a long-lasting lack of investment in basic public utilities, leaving communities exposed to prolonged flooding and its health consequences. The phrase “we feel exposed every time the weather changes” indicates a constant state of vulnerability, rooted not just in climate events but in a failure to structure a strong environmental infrastructure. Similarly, further P noted:

4.4.5.2 Sub-theme 2: Weak governance and planning to mitigate the impacts of climate-related events

P13 stated:

“We have seen such events (like floods) many times now, but nothing actually changes. We have not been given any early warnings. Alongside, there is no proper drainage and no safe place to go

when the rain starts coming in. The government never came on time; it comes after everything is destroyed. If they had done even a little before the rains, maybe the conditions would not have been that bad if they had cleaned the canals or made proper shelters.”

The participants repeatedly showed concerns about the absence of early warnings or pre-emptive action points to a clear failure in disaster disaster-vulnerable region to reduce risk. The lack of drainage maintenance, safe shelters, and timely government response shows that planning is reactive rather than preventive. If the government had taken some basic steps before the rains, like cleaning the canals or building proper shelters, the damage could have been less and protect them in advance. Similarly, P4 noted:

“The government's steps — even in collaboration with NGOs — were reactionary. They should have taken preemptive actions based on forecasts, because they already knew that unprecedented rains were coming, like in 2010. But in our area, no preemptive steps were taken. For example, the drainage system that should have been in place — where waste drains through pipelines into a larger disposal system, and eventually into a river or sea — that system was disrupted by local encroachment. The town chairman had allowed a big drain to be redirected into a small, narrow one. So the entire city's drainage was bottlenecked. Obviously, with so much rain, where was the water going to go? “In an attempt to protect their areas, they deliberately obstructed the natural flow of water, which diverted the floodwater to other vulnerable communities. Despite the severity of the issue, the government has taken no action, and the channels still remain blocked”.

The participants highlight critical governance failures and the role of local elites in worsening the flood impact. Despite forecasts of heavy rains similar to past disasters, no preemptive actions were taken to prepare vulnerable areas. The respondent points out how the drainage system was intentionally mismanaged; a major drain was redirected into a smaller one due to local encroachments approved by the town chairman, creating a bottleneck during the floods. Furthermore, feudal actors deliberately blocked the natural flow of water to protect their own land, diverting floodwaters toward poorer communities. These actions not only reflect a lack of disaster preparedness but also show how power and local politics can deepen the suffering of already vulnerable populations in the absence of state intervention.

4.4.6 Theme 5: Recovery and Future Vulnerability to Climate-Related Events

The floods in Khairpur left many communities struggling with slow and unequal recovery efforts, exposing deeper concerns about their future vulnerability to climate-related events. While some aid reached the affected areas, many respondents described the support as delayed, insufficient, or limited to initial relief, with no long-term rebuilding plans. As a result, people have been forced to return to damaged homes or live in makeshift shelters. The absence of structured recovery mechanisms has deepened uncertainty about the future. Many fears that without proper housing, livelihood restoration, and protection systems, they will be just as vulnerable or even more so when the next disaster strikes. This uncertainty reflects both a failure to build back better and a lack of resilience planning for climate adaptation.

4.4.6.1 Sub-theme:1 Recovery Efforts

Many flood-affected residents in Khairpur reported that recovery efforts were slow, uneven, and mostly limited to short-term relief. Initial aid, such as food or tents, was not followed by sustainable support like housing reconstruction or livelihood restoration. Several families returned to damaged homes or remained displaced months after the flood. This lack of coordinated recovery planning has left communities more vulnerable to future climate shocks. As P1 noted:

“The government provided us Rs-5000 per acre of house building, but on that one acre, we have spent a total of RS-60,000 to 70,000.”

The participant clearly mentioned the limited and insufficient nature of recovery efforts. They point out that the government compensation of 5,000 RS per acre was far below the actual cost of rebuilding, which ranged from 60,000 RS to 70,000 RS. This gap forced affected families to fund most of the reconstruction themselves, often beyond their financial capacity. It reflects a lack of meaningful state support in the recovery phase, leaving vulnerable households exposed to long-term hardship and unable to rebuild resilient homes. As P noted:

“Only those sitting in tents were given a little money. Those who shifted elsewhere—rented houses, relatives’ places—received nothing.”

The participants' claim discloses the inequitable and poorly targeted recovery efforts following the floods. Financial support was selectively distributed, favoring only those visible in relief camps or

tents, while others who sought refuge in rented homes or with relatives were ignored. This reflects an imperfect compensation strategy that failed to account for the diverse coping mechanisms of displaced families. As a result, many genuinely affected households were excluded from recovery assistance, deepening mistrust and vulnerability. As P9 mentioned:

“I, in fact, nobody here, would want to go through all this once again. The government should help us build strong houses. A plan needs to be in place, which supports people like us before the rains come. Temporary aid after everything was destroyed was not beneficial; proper policies should be there, backed with action.”

The participants reflect a strong demand for long-term recovery planning and preventive action. they clearly express frustration with temporary aid and emphasizes the need for policy-backed, practical solutions such as strong housing and pre-disaster planning. It shows that affected individuals are not only seeking compensation but also structural support to prevent repeated suffering. The quote validates a broader call for shifting from reactive relief to proactive climate resilience and recovery policies. Similarly, as P noted:

4.4.6.2 Sub-theme 2: Uncertain Future

According to P12,

“The government compensation was not enough to rebuild strong houses that could protect us from future floods. However, we still tried to do our best. But it seems that the infrastructure we built is not strong enough to withstand floods having intensity like that of 2022. So, if the same happens again, everything will collapse—we are not prepared for another disaster. The drainage and canal system stands broken. No work has so far been done on it. If floods come again, water will enter our houses just like it last time. Nothing has changed to make us safer”

Participants explain and share deep thoughts about future uncertainty and fear of repeated disaster, as no substantial improvements have been made since the 2022 floods. Despite limited efforts by individuals to rebuild, the lack of government support and weak infrastructure means communities remain the same as just vulnerable to disaster. The cracked drainage and canal systems are symbolic of the state’s failure and not learn lessons from past disasters. This stagnant situation

reinforces the belief among residents that if another flood occurs, the outcome will be just as devastating or worse as the previous one.

4.4.7 Theme 6: Policy Gaps and CIDPs Recognition

This theme emerged as a result of the participants' narratives consistently mentioning the problems they face as CIDPs. Special categorization of CIDPs with proper registration and identity proof is instrumental in accessing relief efforts. Alongside, special identity or registration of CIDPs helps in distributing targeted aid and distributing it on a priority basis to those registered as the most disadvantaged. On the contrary, the absence of a special identity undermines their access to relief efforts, relocation support, and long-term rehabilitation.

4.4.7.1 Sub-theme 1: CIDPs Recognition and Registration

Among the participants, some argued that they were never registered as CIDPs and were never provided a separate ID that could have distinguished them from the rest. The lack of registration and a special ID creates problems in targeted relief provision.

P13, when asked about the problem they face while accessing the relief efforts, stated that,

“We did not have an ID that showed us as CIDPs.”

“Special identity, i.e., CIDPs, would have helped us get ration easily and would have distinguished us from the rest.”

“We were treated like any other poor people of the area to where we migrated. No one asked or cared that we had lost everything in the flood. Without any proper registration, we kept going from one camp to another.”

The statement reflects that registration of CIDPs would have distinguished them from the other people of the area where the affected ones have migrated. So, the lack of a CIDP ID makes it difficult for them to get rations easily from the distribution point.

Registration and identification play a crucial role in CIDPs' facilitation regarding access to basic assistance and protection. It is important not only for the people concerned, but also for the state. Registration enables the early identification of the displaced individuals with specific needs within

a population and their referral to available protection. Therefore, registration and identification help in the smooth distribution of assistance without much delay. Besides, it can protect against refoulement (forced return), arbitrary arrest, and detention.

4.5 Gender Perspective and Experiences

Displacement affects almost everyone disproportionately. However, women, due to their different needs, social roles, and limited access to resources, are more vulnerable to displacement, as it reduces their ability to cope, recover, and access relief and rehabilitation services. This section has been discussed primarily with the aim of including a gender perspective in policy formulation and to consider their different needs in relief efforts. For this research, a questionnaire was distributed among climate-induced displaced girls. Tabulation and cross-tabulation have been conducted to assess their perspective regarding the government and their immediate needs while being displaced. The researcher finds that due to displacement, the gender-differentiated impacts created layered vulnerabilities, where women faced higher health risks, fear of harassment, and barriers to education. The following concerns were raised by women:

4.5.1 Unsafe stay while being displaced

Shelter is particularly important in the context of gender because women, girls and other marginalized groups have unique needs that must be addressed to ensure their safety and dignity, particularly during climate-induced displacement. Shelter is not just a physical place for living or a place for protection; rather, it is a critical site of safety, privacy, and access to basic rights. The majority of the displaced girls who responded to the questionnaire stated that after being displaced, they were living in informal settlements. The following tabulation shows their shelter places:

Table 4.4: Stay Location of the Displaced Girls

	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
Any Other	2	11.76	11.76
Nearby School	4	23.53	35.29
Rented Home	3	17.65	52.94
Temporary Shelter/Camps	5	29.41	82.35
With Relatives/Friends	3	17.65	100.00
Total	17	100.00	

A majority of 5 girls among the 17 respondents spent their time in a temporary shelter while being displaced. 4 of them were living in nearby schools, while the rest stayed either in rented houses or moved to live with their relatives in other places.

4.5.2 Losses due to displacement

Displacement due to climate-related disasters affects the affected with multiple problems. They lose certain important things during the process. Some of the losses that women incurred during the process of displacement include schooling, health, and home.

Did you lose any of the following due to displacement? (you can select multiple)

17 responses

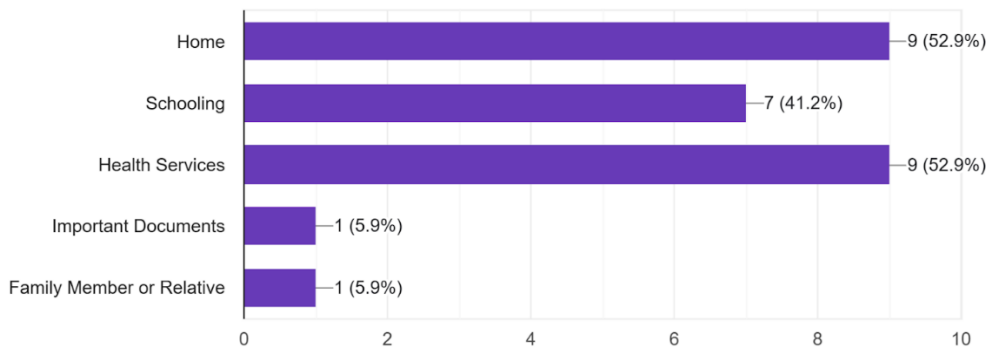


Figure 7: Losses due to displacement

(Source: Author Estimations)

The chart in Figure 4.3 shows the losses that the displaced girls incurred. Tabulation and cross-tabulation gave the following results.

Table 4.5: Educational Disruption

Schooling	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
0	10	58.82	58.82
1	7	41.18	100.00
Total	17	100.00	

0 here refers to No, and 1 refers to Yes. Among the options included, 41% responded that they have lost their schooling due to displacement.

Table 4.6: cross-tabulation of health services and home

Home	Health_Services		
	0	1	Total
0	4	3	7
	57.14	42.86	100.00
	66.67	27.27	41.18
1	2	8	10
	20.00	80.00	100.00
	33.33	72.73	58.82
Total	6	11	17
	35.29	64.71	100.00
	100.00	100.00	100.00

This cross-tabulation between housing status and access to health services shows a significant disparity in access to health services among climate-induced displaced women. Among those reported not having a home, 57% did not receive health services, while 42% received health services. On the contrary, 80% of the respondents have received health services. This indicates a strong association between having a home or shelter and being able to have access to health-related services. Moreover, 66.67% of % who did not receive health services were homeless women, revealing that displacement without shelter hinders access to critical health services.

This disparity highlights the structural barriers in assistance provision, that those living in unfavourable conditions, such without shelter, are less likely to benefit from relief services. The loss of home not only increases physical and emotional vulnerabilities, but also affects outreach to basic services like health.

4.5.3 Government Assistance: Perception and Access

This section explores the experiences and perceptions of displaced women regarding government assistance, particularly in the aftermath of displacement. It assesses the extent to which the displaced women felt supported or neglected by state institutions.

The following table shows the number of women who either received or did not receive help in any form:

Table 4.7: Help Received

Help Received	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
No	6	35.29	35.29
Yes	11	64.71	100.00
Total	17	100.00	

Among the 17 respondents, 6 did not receive government help in any form, while the remaining 11 received it either in one or another form. In a separate question regarding the kind of help they received from the government, they responded:

Table 4.8: The kind of help CIDPs received

Type of Help	Number of Responses	Percentage
Shelter	4	23.5%
Food and Water	7	41.2%
Education	0	0%
Medical Care	2	11.8%
Psychological Support	1	5.9%
Protection/Safety	1	5.9%
Other (please specify)	3	17.6%

(Source: Author Estimations)

These responses indicate the failure of the government in the provision of basic services like education, health, and protection. The respondents were asked to select multiple. However, only 4 received shelter. Among the respondents, only 11.8% received medical care, and 5.9% women received psychological support. Protection/safety and education remained the minimum among the support given by the government. None received formal education and schooling while being displaced, and only 1 (5.9%) felt they had received a kind of safety and protection from the government.

4.5.4 Safety Concerns

Women in shelter camps, due to overcrowded and the living of multiple families in a congested environment, face multiple problems, including the problem of harassment. In a separate question regarding their fear of being harassed at the place where they lived after being displaced, they responded:

Table 4.9: safety risk

	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
0	4	25.00	25.00
1	12	75.00	100.00
Total	16	100.00	

To make it clear and understandable, the question mentioned that by safety, the researcher meant harassment and other forms of insecurity. A majority, 12 persons (75%) showed concerns about their safety, while only 4 persons (25%) felt safe. Displaced women, particularly those living in camps, are vulnerable to harassment and other forms of insecurity.

Table 4.9: Safety Concern, Safe Space, and Help

__000000	__000001		Total
	No	Yes	
No	3	1	4
	75.00	25.00	100.00
	30.00	14.29	23.53
Prefer not to say	1	0	1
	100.00	0.00	100.00
	10.00	0.00	5.88
Yes	6	6	12
	50.00	50.00	100.00
	60.00	85.71	70.59
Total	10	7	17
	58.82	41.18	100.00
	100.00	100.00	100.00

This cross-tabulation shows that among those who reported safety concern (Yes), 50% received help in the form of safe spaces, while the other half (50%). This shows that even when individual

when individuals expressed safety concerns, only a portion (50%) were accommodated in designated safe spaces. This suggests a gap in targeted protection measures.

4.5.5 Women Post-Displacement Challenges

The researcher finds that women face multidimensional problems during the process of displacement. The following tabulation shows the problems they faced most during the 2022 floods:

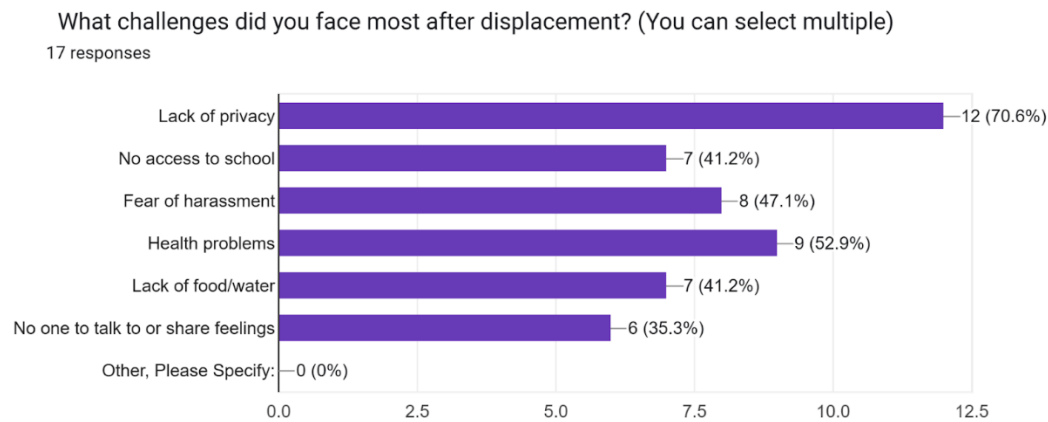


Figure 8: Women Post-Displacement Challenges

(Source: Author Estimations)

Among the various options given in the questionnaire, the majority of them, 12 women (70.6%) experienced the lack of privacy, while 8 (47.1) responded that fear of harassment was one of the major problems they faced during displacement. Alongside, 53.9% believed that they had faced the problem of health in any form. 41.2% expressed concern that they had the problem of a lack of food and water. These patterns highlight the gender-specific nature of vulnerabilities in the displacement context. Women, due to their biological and social roles, have distinct needs, which, when go unnoticed or unmet, increase their exposure to risk.

4.5.6 Women’s Essential Displacement Needs

Displacement exposes women to multi-layered vulnerability. Despite the fact that everybody, irrespective of gender, needs to be considered in service provision, however, women, due to their

unique needs and distinct social and biological roles, require special attention from the government both in policy formulation and in the provision of relief services.

The following tabulations show women's perspectives regarding their most immediate needs during displacement:

Table 4.11: Need for Education

Education	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
0	10	58.82	58.82
1	7	41.18	100.00
Total	17	100.00	

Table 4.12: Need for Safe Housing

Safe Housing	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
0	11	64.71	64.71
1	6	35.29	100.00
Total	17	100.00	

Health and education were among the most important sectors, particularly for women. Among the 17 respondents, 7 believe that education is the most important thing women need while being displaced, while 6 believe that health is one of the most important things that women need the most during displacement. The two sectors, however, remained missing or inaccessible for a large number of women during the 2022 floods and the consequent displacement. Lack of access to health and education, particularly for displaced women, leads to increased vulnerability, a prolonged cycle of poverty, and limited capacity for social and economic integration.

Chapter 5

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

This last chapter has been divided into two portions. The first portion covers a brief conclusion of this thesis and the findings discussed above. The second portion of this chapter proposes several recommendations based primarily on stemming and responding to the gaps found during the study.

This study set out to explore the complex realities of climate-induced displaced persons in Pakistan, highlighting gaps in policy and protection measures, while drawing upon the lived experiences of the CIDPS from the 2022 floods in the Khairpur region of District Sindh. On the policy front, the study, through textual analysis, also analyzes and scrutinizes the text of the three international legal frameworks, including the 1951 Refugee Convention, the UN Guiding Principles, and the Nansen Initiatives. It also assesses the impacts of ambiguities in these international legal regimes on Pakistan's Policy Development.

After critically studying the various articles of each of these legal frameworks separately, the study finds that they are not only ambiguous but also inconsistent, where some of these laws fail to address important issues pertaining to climate-induced displacement. These legal frameworks fail to provide adequate protection to CIDPs, particularly when they migrate to countries other than that of origin. On the contrary, conflict-induced displaced persons have various amenities, which do not extend to CIDPs. Further, Such legal frameworks, the study finds, are not comprehensive enough to address the complexities involved in defining the term "Climate-Induced Displacement". These international documents on climate-induced displacement also fail to come up with a comprehensive strategy that could tackle the problem of displacement across the world in a coherent and coordinated way. As a result, having no international precedents that could serve as guiding documents, individual states often struggle with the problem of displacement, particularly the problem of climate-induced displacement.

Moreover, in order to bring into light the perception and lived experiences of CIDPs regarding the government's role in providing assistance during, in the aftermath, and in the rehabilitation process, this research presents various narratives of the people displaced from 2022 mega-floods in the Khairpur region of Sindh district. In-depth interviews are conducted with 13 displaced individuals.

Various themes emerged out of their narratives. These themes include: exposure to unsafe places and the coping mechanism; state negligence and institutional inaction; flaws in aid distribution; structural pressures and underlying causes; recovery and future vulnerabilities to climate-related events; policy gaps and CIDPs recognition.

The accounts of participants showed that during displacement and at its aftermath, they remained exposed to unsafe conditions such as lack of proper shelter, camp security, and water-borne diseases. They stated that during the process of displacement, they were faced with a multitude of challenges, including walking bare-handed in water, leaving all their essential items back in their houses, which they found ruined under the debris of their houses. This indicates the lack of immediate response from the government to nip the problem of displacement in the bud.

The accounts of participants' interviews also highlighted state negligence and institutional inaction. They raised concerns regarding the provision of basic services, timely and effectively. The research concludes that delays in aid provision were primarily due to a lack of proper planning, implementation, and coordination between PDMA, NDMA, and other state and non-state institutions. The lack of a single focal point to coordinate the activities of all the institutions hindered the effective provision of relief services both during and in the aftermath of displacement. As a result of such discrepancies at the institutional level, the participants observed various flaws in aid distribution. Their narrative reflects that the aid was distributed, in some cases, either on the basis of political linkages or access to the concerned institutions. Alongside, they noted that the absence of a strong tracking and monitoring mechanism, which could have overseen the provision of relief services, led to corruption.

Furthermore, when asked about the contributor that causes their displacement, the majority highlighted structural problems, poor planning and coordination, lack of an early warning system, and environmental fragility, which, they believe, intersect to form vulnerability of the community. Timely actions, coordinated response, and logistic planning would have prevented the displacement at such a large level. The government, as highlighted by S1, however, suffers from financial and advisory issues at the institutional level, which have significantly hindered the capacity of NDMA, PDMA, and local institutions to respond effectively to crisis situations.

In addition to these, the research finds gaps in 'recovery' at the aftermath of climate-related disasters and the future vulnerability of the people. Response and Recovery activities are important

elements of DRR. The District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) follows two different mechanisms for response and recovery activities. First, DDMA coordinates with various other line agencies such as the Department of Public Health Engineering and the provincial public works Department when it has to undertake response and recovery activities in cases of infrastructure, power disruption etc. When damages in the form of casualties, injuries, and house damage are incurred, DDMA compensates victims according to the Provincial Disaster Compensation Rate policy. However, the response and recovery activities are not efficient and effective in addressing the needs of those affected. This is primarily due to weak coordination, financial constraints, local disputes, and red tapping. Future vulnerability concern, raised by the respondents, will be addressed through proper compensation that could enable those most vulnerable to build their capacity to combat the catastrophic impacts of climate change.

The research finds that a lot many of problems could have been averted if the government had established proper accounts and records of those displaced. For example, mismanagement in aid distribution was, in part, the result of the absence of a proper registration of CIDPs. Without formal registration, CIDPs remained undocumented and unaccounted for, which severely hindered their ability to access healthcare, education, livelihood support, and long-term rehabilitation. The state's inability or unwillingness to formally acknowledge climate-induced displacement as a distinct category perpetuates cycles of vulnerability and denies affected communities the dignity and support they are entitled to as citizens.

In addition to the thematic analysis, this research conducted a survey to foreground the gender dimension of displacement, highlighting how women experience and perceive government assistance in distinct and often more challenging ways compared to their male counterparts. responses of a total of 17 women have been recorded and quantified using tabulation and cross-tabulation. the findings reveal that women face compound vulnerabilities, not only due to their status as CIDPs, but also because of the systemic gender inequalities. Many respondents reported limited access to healthcare services, education, safe shelter, privacy, and security, with government support often perceived as inadequate, inaccessible, or insensitive to their unique needs. Their responses demonstrate how the intersection of gender and displacement creates layered vulnerabilities that are often overlooked in policy formulation and responses.

5.2 Recommendations

Climate change causes a large number of displacements worldwide, which in turn serves as a threat multiplier—repeating the cycle of poverty; limiting people's ability to cope with climate-related disasters; and obstructing their access to basic services such as health, safety, education, and shelter. Therefore, given the magnitude of problems displaced communities face, it is pertinent to consider CIDPs in policy formulation and develop certain mechanisms that could ensure their protection. In this regard, the following measures are proposed:

5.2.1 Formulation of a Universally Binding Legal Framework for Climate-Induced Displacement

Climate Induced Displacement not a new phenomenon; rather, it happened from time to time, in various regions across the world. However, post-industrialization brought about significant changes in climate, contributing greatly to the phenomenon of Displacement. Conflict-induced displacement has largely been covered in international and national legal frameworks. Binding international laws abide states to take measures for the protection of climate-induced displacement. CIDPs, on the other hand, lack such a binding international convention that not only binds individual states to take the matter seriously but also serves as a guiding principle for them. Therefore, it is proposed that, an “International Commission on Climate-Induced Displacement (CIDP Commission)” should be set up, which examine the status of CIDPs across the world and publish an yearly report on their status and lived experienced. In the short term, the commission should function as an affiliate body or operational arm under the umbrella of international frameworks such as UNHCR, ensuring technical expertise, legitimacy, and global coordination. In the long run, the commission should evolve into an autonomous body that can independently develop and advocate for a comprehensive, legally binding national framework for the protection of CIDPs. The newly developed legal framework must recognize CIDPs as a distinct category of displacement, address their unique vulnerabilities, and guarantee their rights to shelter, health, education, and security. This institutional mechanism would fill the existing policy vacuum and ensure a systematic, rights-based response to climate-induced displacement in line with both domestic and international human rights obligations.

5.2.2 Making the Existing Legal Frameworks Climate and CIDPs Sensitive

Apart from the international frameworks related to CIDPs, many countries have adopted national laws that address the problem of CIDPs. Pakistan too has a Climate change policy and has a National Adaptation Plan, but that does not talk in length about the issue of displacement. No documents separately and comprehensively discuss the ways to address the problem of displacement from climate-related events. Apart from the two mentioned frameworks, Pakistan should make almost every other policy and project climate-sensitive, which could mitigate the impacts of climate change in the long run. Similarly, the existing international legal frameworks, such as the 1951 refugee conventions, should include displacement caused by climate change and should place CIDPs on par with conflict-induced displacement.

5.2.3 Integrating CIDPs into Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans at the District Level

Local government is the first responder to any disaster, but in Pakistan, it lacks frameworks that include CIDPs. Integrating it into existing disaster protocols makes protection proactive. Therefore, Pakistan District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMA) can be mandated to identify climate-vulnerable communities at risk of displacement and to prepare pre-disaster evacuation plans, temporary relocation strategies, and resource stockpiling mechanisms. Besides, DDMA should also be mandated to maintain updated registries of CIDPs categorized by gender, age, and vulnerability status.

5.2.4 Allocating Emergency Housing and Land Use Rights for Protracted CIDPs

Pakistan should take steps to set up temporary but dignified housing units in areas that have a high risk of displacement. These housing units should have secure sanitation, women-friendly spaces, and clinics. However, for the protracted CIDPs, temporary land allocation or leasing rights should be granted until durable solutions such as return, integration, or relocation are durable. The establishment of such protocols for emergency settlements with legal protection would prevent the marginalization of CIDPs.

5.2.5 Mainstreaming CIDPs into Social Safety Nets Programs (e.g., BISP, Sehat Card)

Displacement persons, as discussed in the thematic analysis section, lose their sources of income. Leaving them to their own fate creates cycles of poverty. Social Safety Nets Programs such as BISP, Sehat Sahult Program, and Ehsaas Emergency Program play a crucial role in such circumstances. These programs are functioning in Pakistan. A dedicated eligibility criteria needs to be established for climate-displaced households. To make it work efficiently, data sharing protocols need to be built between the proposed CIDP Commission, NADRA, and BISP for automatic inclusion of CIDPs families. Such measures would speed up the process of inclusion without creating new parallels.

5.2.6 Establishing Community-Based Early Warning and Climate Resilience Units in High-Risk Areas

This could well be ensured through local volunteers and women's groups trained in early warning dissemination, community evacuation protocols, and climate adaptation practices like elevated housing and evacuation points. Such steps empower communities to act before displacement occurs.

5.2.7 Introducing Mobile Registration Units and Identity Protection Measures for CIDPs

Mobile Registration, particularly those of NADRA, Units should be deployed at displacement zones. These registration units should undertake on-spot registration of CIDPs. Besides, the CNIC renewal and issuance process should be carried out to prevent their exclusion from relief programs.

5.2.8 Monitoring and Tracking of Aid

A strong monitoring and tracking system needs to be in place that could monitor the provision of aid to displaced communities. Monitoring would ensure that no mismanagement occurs in aid provision, while tracking would help in ensuring that everybody gets the assistance and that nobody is left.

5.2.9 Promoting Psychosocial Support and Trauma Services for Displaced Families

At times of climate disasters and the consequent displacement, people are likely to experience trauma; therefore, mobile mental health units should be dispatched to the displacement centers. These health units should work in collaboration with NGOs and local health departments. Women, children, and people with disabilities should be given mental support on a priority basis.

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Appendix I

Interview Question for Climate-Induced Displaced Persons

Q No 1. were you migrated from 2022 floods? If yes, for how much time?

Q No2. Can you explain one event that you believe was the most difficult part in that whole process of displacement?

Q No.3 Did the government assist you during the process of displacement and was it immediate after displacement? If yes, what kind of support was given and how adequate was it in addressing your needs?

Q No.4 What was the transportation system like? Did you arrange it yourself or was any facility provided?

Q No. 5 Do you Believe that the assistance provided by government was distributed fairly? I mean do you think it was not based on discrimination

Q No.6 Did the government communicate with you regarding their operations, specifically for the delays of relied efforts?

Q No.7 What about proactive measures? Did the government take any preventive steps before the floods, like pressure through forecasting systems or infrastructure like canals?

No. 8 After displacement, what were the most pressing issues that you face the most?

Q No. 9 What was the government response to the issues you faced after relocation? i.e. did the government provide with facilities proper shelter, healthcare and education?

Q No. 10 At the stage of rehabilitation, did the government provide adequate compensation for the loss and damages that you incurred during the 2022 floods? If yes, was it enough to rebuild your lives and infrastructure like homes that could withstand future such floods?

Q No. 11 what is the government currently doing to mitigate the impact of climate related events in the future?

Q No.12 What are your future concerns? Do you think that any such future events like the one you witnessed during 2022w would cause your displacement?

Appendix II

Questionnaire: Climate-Induced Displacement and Protection Needs of Girls in Pakistan

Dear Participant,

This questionnaire is part of an MPhil research study titled “Climate-Induced Displacement in Pakistan: Evaluating Gaps in Policy and Protection Measures.” Your responses will remain anonymous and confidential. The purpose is to understand your experiences, challenges, and needs after being displaced due to climate-related events.

Thank you for your time and valuable insights.

Q No. 1 Demographic Information

Age		
Area/District		
Education Level		
Currently Going to School	Yes	No

Q No. 2 Did the 2022 floods led to your displacement?

Q No.3 After Displacement, where did you stay?

Q No.4 Was your family forced to leave immediately or did you have time to prepare?

Q No.5 Did you lose any of the following due to displacement?

Home	Schooling	Health Services	Family Member(s)	Important Documents
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Q No. 6 After displacement, did you or your family receive help from any organization or government agency?

Yes	No
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Q No.7 If yes, what kind of help was provided? (You can select multiple)

Shelter	Food & Water	Education	Medical Care	Psychological Support	Protection/Safety	Other, Please Specify
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Q No.8 Were you ever afraid for your safety after displacement (e.g., harassment, insecurity in camps)?

Yes	No
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Q No. 9 Were there safe and separate spaces for girls in the place you stayed after displacement?

Yes	No
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Q No. 10 What challenges did you face most after displacement? (You can select multiple)

Lack of Privacy	No access to school	Fear of harassment	Health problems	Lack of food/safe drinking water	No one to talk to or share feelings	Other, please specify
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Q No. 11 Do you feel the government cares about the needs of displaced girls?

Yes	No	Neutral
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Q No. 12 Do you feel your voice or opinion was considered in any relief or recovery process?

Yes	No
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Q No. 13 What kind of support do you think displaced girls like you need the most? (you can select multiple)

Safe housing	Education Continuation	Mental Health Support	Protection from Violence	Health Services	Opportunity to speak up
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Q No. 14 Do you think that the government is doing enough to build yours or the community resilience against the impact of climate change?

Yes	No	Not Sure
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Appendix III

Interview Questions for Government Officials

Q No. 1 What policies are currently in place to address the crisis of climate-induced internal displacement in Pakistan?

Q No.2 How effective do you think these policies have been in preventing and responding to climate-related displacement of 2022?

Q No. 3 What challenges does the government and your organization face in implementing these policies effectively?

Q No.4 Don't you think that rules of the various disaster related institutions and that of the climate ministry overlap at certain point

Q No.5 Amid Disaster, the existing mechanisms fail to respond adequately and timely, as my interviews from Climate-Induced Displaced Person revealed. Where the problem lies. Is it the absence of policies or poor implementation and coordination?

Q No. 6 what are the major constraints of government institutions directly or indirectly responsible for addressing the crisis of CIDPs?

Q No. 7 At times of a climate related disaster, how does the various state agencies and NGOs coordinate to provide immediate assistance and relief to those affected?

Q No.8 What measures are being taken to ensure that displaced persons can rebuild their lives and communities?

Q No.9 Are there any plans to improve or develop new policies addressing climate-induced displacement? If so, what are they?

Q No.12 What improvements do you think are necessary to protect people from climate-induced displacement effectively?

Appendix IV

Interview Questions for NGOs Representatives

Q No. 1 What role does your organization play in supporting climate-induced IDPs in Pakistan?

Q No.2 Can you share any success stories or challenges your organization has faced in helping displaced communities?

Q No.3 What do you believe are the most urgent needs of climate-induced IDPs that are not being met?

Q No.4 How would you assess the current policy environment in Pakistan for addressing climate-induced displacement?

Q No.5 What policy changes or new initiatives do you advocate for to better protect displaced populations?

Q No.6 In your view, what should be the top priority for the government and international community to address climate-induced displacement?
