

Climate Change and Women

How SRHR is Compromised
in Humanitarian Crisis

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About Forum for Dignity Initiatives-fdi

A forerunner in advocating for women and young girls' rights Forum for Dignity Initiatives is a research and advocacy based women-led organization that works with and for women, young girls, transgender women, women with disabilities, women from ethnic and religious minorities and women in all their diversity. Since the past 10 years fdi has dedicated its efforts to uplift and empower women in all their diversity by working on the thematic focus of climate justice, sexual and reproductive health and rights , and political participation.

The super floods of 2022 left a devastating impact on Pakistan, particularly women and young girls. fdi directed all its efforts with the help of our volunteers and allies in initiating relief work in more than 10 districts of Balochistan such Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Sohbatpur and Usta Muhammad to name a few. Our groundwork and advocacy for climate justice highlighted the need to advocate and disseminate information on climate change but from a gendered perspective. This research paper is part of fdi's larger plans for advocating for climate justice and unpacking the intersections of climate change and gender.



Abstract

There is no doubt that climate change is a pressing issue that is impacting Pakistan more than any other country. Even though Pakistan's carbon emissions are barely comparable with other developed countries, according to a report by UN-Habitat (2023) it is the 5th most vulnerable country to climate change. Climate change is not a "gender-neutral" phenomenon. It has greater implications and dangers for women and young girls. It increases already existing gender disparities and raises risks such as exploitation and vulnerability. The objective of this study is to understand the implications of humanitarian crisis on women's sexual and reproductive health and rights. This study has analyzed and drawn paralysis of the impact of COVID-19 and the floods of 2022 on women's and young girls' sexual and reproductive health and well-being. The data was collected through key-informant interviews and surveys. The paper will delve into the lessons learned and policy changes and future suggestions to safeguard women's and young girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Scope:

This study features a literature review to present a situational analysis of Pakistan's unique climate change conditions. It will bear a special focus on the 2002 flooding and its aftermath while also drawing a parallel with the COVID 19 pandemic. Drawing from FDI's earlier study during the pandemic, this report will discover the lessons learnt and how disaster situations created by climate can leverage off of that knowledge. This study will, hence, also be a comparative assessment between the pandemic and the flooding.

After the literature review, a primary research has been employed through a survey and key informant interviews to validate the research. The survey was targeted towards young cis and transgender women who have been affected by the recent flooding. The survey was carried out by an assistant researcher from the FDI PK staff to collect responses due to logistic challenges between the respondents. Most of the surveys were collected online via google forms. The KIIs were targeted towards the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, National Disaster Management Authority and the Provincial Disaster Management Authorities.

The study is concluded with an analysis of the information and policy suggestions.

Pakistan's climate context:

Pakistan is one of the most affected countries in the world by climate change, putting marginalized groups at high risk, exacerbating public health concerns, increasing demands for energy, reducing access to food, all affecting the right to an adequate standard of living.

The book, "Gender and Climate Change: An Introduction" starts off with a testimony from Rehana Bibi Khilji from HOPE-PK (Humanitarian Organization for Poverty Eradication and Environment) as

she recalls her time in Quetta, Pakistan living through climate change. Her testimony was recorded just before the floods of July 2010. She reminisces about growing up witnessing snowfall and frequent rains in a city which was once dubbed “little Switzerland” and was known as the valley of fruit orchards. She mentions how over the years Quetta has become over populated which have put a dent on its resources as well. Her observation of its effect on women is as follows:

“What I really miss is that I do not see the indigenous women selling herbal medicines that they used to collect from rural areas in Balochistan. We used to apply them for treatment of health problems, such as coughs, colds, flu, burns, and hair and skin care. Now due to drought and loss of rangelands and green cover, we miss not only these products, but also the local skills that were associated with them.

Women used to make cheese and yoghurt from milk of the livestock- now it’s almost gone. They also used to make carpets and rugs. All such products have to be purchased from the market now, and at the same time they have lost a basic source of income and empowerment associated with their income. Not only this, but also their source of nutrition has been affected: in poor families pregnant and lactating women are mostly undernourished.” (“Gender and Climate Change: An Introduction,” 2012)

What is of note here is that this is a testimony from 2010 before any of Pakistan’s major floods. Before this, we saw flooding in coastal Balochistan due to a cyclone and monsoon rainfall where 815 people died in 2007. Balochistan heavily relies on rainfall for its water needs and it remains the most affected province by droughts. According to the National Drought Monitoring Centre (NDMC), moderate drought conditions were prevailing across 18 districts in the two provinces of Sindh and Balochistan in the year 2021-2022. An estimated 1.8 million people were expected to experience acute food insecurity and 530,000 people emergency levels of food insecurity from March to June 2021 in 12 of the 18 drought-affected districts, according to the Food Security Sector. The Pakistan Meteorological Department warned that drought conditions may continue and worsen with adverse effects on agriculture and livestock (*Pakistan: Drought - 2021-2022*, 2023).

Pakistan is experiencing an increase in the frequency and severity of drought due to a rise in temperatures, the adverse effects of El Nino and decrease in the amount of rainfall during monsoon season. In 2018, Pakistan received 24.4 % less rainfall during the monsoon season, while Sindh was 69.5 % below average, and Balochistan 45 % below. Sindh faces moderate to severe drought conditions in 8 districts while Balochistan faces the same in 18 districts. Assessments are showing that some 3 million people are affected in Sindh and 1.8 million affected in Balochistan. Despite government relief operations, a significant number of drought-affected communities remained unattended and are resorting to coping approaches that have severely compromised the wellbeing of children and women. 37% of pregnant women in Balochistan are malnourished (*Pakistan: Drought Fact Sheet - Balochistan and Sindh | HumanitarianResponse*, n.d.)



Noreen Haider did a disaster profiling for Pakistan in 2005. Pakistan is exposed to many geological, climate and man-made disasters. The following list is in order of the damage caused by each type of disaster:

1. Floods
2. Droughts
3. Earthquakes
4. Epidemics (Wayback Machine, n.d.)

Other than these 4 classifications, Pakistan has also been facing extreme temperatures. From March-May 2022, Pakistan recorded some of the highest temperatures in the country in the last 60 years. 65 persons were estimated to have died in Pakistan including at least three children reportedly linked to the effects of the heat wave in 2022. Also in the same year extraordinary record-high temperatures in Pakistan triggered the collapse of the Hassanabad Bridge along the Karakoram Highway in the Hunza Valley. The unprecedented heat wave melted ice on Shisper Glacier, creating a lake which flooded, wiping out the bridge and damaging nearby homes, buildings, and two power plants. This event is the latest in a series of destructive events, known as glacier lake outburst floods, in this region (Tariq, 2022).

The most devastating phenomenon caused by climate change for Pakistan is floods. Pakistan was hit with the worst country wide floods since 1929 in 2010. Within a period of one and a half months, 78 districts out of Pakistan's 141 districts were affected, and as of 24 October 2010, the government's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) reported that there had been 1,985 deaths and 2,946 people injured by the floods. Out of a population of 168 million (as per 2010 data), at least 20 million people were affected by the floods, losing their homes and livelihoods, mainly across the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh. The floods also affected people in Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Kashmir. Out of the estimated 22.2 million hectares of agricultural land, almost two million hectares were destroyed in the floods, threatening severe food shortages in the coming months. More than 400 hospitals and health clinics were damaged or destroyed, as well as education facilities, power and transmission lines, telecommunication networks and industrial infrastructure (*Pakistan: Floods - Jul 2010*, 2010).

A decade later another series of devastating floods submerged one thirds of the country in 2022. According to Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority, the floods affected more than 33 million people and destroyed or damaged more than 2.1 million houses. At least 1,739 people were killed by floodwaters that inundated tens of thousands of square kilometers of the country. Across the country, about 150 bridges and 3,500 kilometers (2,200 miles) of roads were destroyed. More than 1.2 million livestock and 2 million acres of crops and orchards have also been lost. According to officials, the floods affected nearly 15% of Pakistan's rice crop and 40% of its cotton crop. The floods displaced at least 7.9 million people. In 2023, many displaced people returned to their places of origin, but they returned to challenging circumstances (*2022 Pakistan Floods - Center for Disaster Philanthropy*, 2023).

Climate and its effect on women's SRHR in Pakistan:

In any disaster situation, vulnerable population is affected disproportionately. The vulnerability comes from a range of factors which could be economic, social, cultural and more. Women's vulnerability to climate change stems from all three of these factors and merely by their gender. 70% of the 1.3 billion people living in conditions of poverty are women. In urban areas, 40 % of the poorest households are headed by women. Women predominate in the world's food production (50-80 %), but they own less than 10 % of the land.

During extreme weather such as droughts and floods, women tend to work more to secure household livelihoods. This will leave less time for women to access training and education, develop skills or earn income. In many societies, socio-cultural norms and childcare responsibilities prevent women from migrating or seeking refuge in other places or working when a disaster hits. Such a situation is likely to put more burdens on women, such as travelling longer to get drinking water and wood for fuel. Women, in many developing countries suffer gender inequalities with respect to human rights, political and economic status, land ownership, housing conditions, exposure to violence, education and health. Climate change is an added stressor that aggravates women's vulnerability. It is widely known that during conflict, women face heightened domestic violence, sexual intimidation, human trafficking and rape (United Nations, n.d.).

At the peak of the flooding in 2022, there were almost 650,000 women in flood-affected areas in need of maternity service with around 73,000 women expected to give birth in September alone. It should be pointed out that Pakistan has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in Asia. Studies have shown that between 2010 and 2018, 91,076 children were born in Pakistan, with an MMR during that time of 319 per 100,000 as compared to the average of 124 per 100,000 in comparable countries. It is still common for many women in Pakistan to deliver at home, and with many women currently living in plastic tents after losing their homes, the need for safe spaces to give birth became even more important. The damage to health facilities and supplies meant that these women had to travel to farther areas for functioning facilities to access the required care. The World Health Organization reports that of the 1,460 health facilities that were damaged by the summer floods, 432 were completely demolished (Elevationweb & Elevationweb, 2023).

According to UNOCHA in early February 2023, "The 5.71 million women and girls in flood-affected areas continue to be at a high risk of gender-based violence (GBV), compounding pre-existing gender inequality and vulnerabilities, lack of availability and access to lifesaving GBV services. With limited and/or no access to services, women and girls are at heightened risk of resorting to negative coping mechanisms" (*2022 Pakistan Floods - Center for Disaster Philanthropy, 2023*).

A policy brief developed by the Sindh community Foundation with support from ARROW took a deep dive into the post disaster interventions in Pakistan after the 2010 floods. In the brief relevant findings on women's health indicate that climate change not only impacts human lives but also impacts the reproductive health of women. It leaves a negative effect on people's mental health and hence is strongly linked with SRHR. Pakistan's SRHR discourse, however, is not in the



forefront in climate change discussions at national, provincial or international levels. As per the brief, even the post disaster recovery plans failed to take into account SRHR even in rehabilitation phases by the government and NGOs/ INGOs. The health outlets and reproductive health services were given low attention; very few national and international NGOs provided SRH services to women in the Districts (10 disaster hit districts in Sindh) which were under research for the policy brief. The FGDs also indicated that women and girls felt insecure and experienced psychological fear while staying in camps due to displacement (*Pakistan Advocacy Brief on Climate Change and Srhr - ARROW*, n.d.) Women in the Sindh province had more difficulty in seeking health services compared to men during displacement due to two reasons. Firstly, the unavailability of women doctors in the camps or shelters prevents the women from seeking health services, particularly SRH services. Secondly, women are not allowed to leave the temporary shelter on their own to either access health services or to get food even within the camp compound unless they are accompanied either by their husband or male relatives. These are attributed to the cultural practice and strict male dominance in the province. All this, in turn, increased women's difficulty in exercising their rights related to SRH.

Current Policy Context in Pakistan:

Pakistan's National Climate Change policy was last updated in October 2021. Since after the 18th amendment, disaster management is a provincial subject, all province are meant to have their own climate change/ disaster risk management policies. So far, Sindh and KP have their own Climate change policies which were adopted in 2022. The National policy is also accompanied by the Climate Change Gender Action Plan.

The national climate change policy's section 4.8.2 is titled "Gender". This section addresses the disproportionate effects of climate change on women but there is no mention of SRHR for women. The policy, under this section, still fails to create a link with women's health. Under section 4.3, "Human Health" the policy makes a connection with mental health but still does not address women's SRHR in any of the following policy measures. Similar is the case of the accompanying "Climate Change Gender Action Plan". There is no direct link created between women and their corresponding health needs due to displacement. The ccGAP had been developed around the six priority sectors namely Agriculture and Food security, Forest and Biodiversity, Disaster Risk Reduction, Water Sanitation and Hygiene, Integrated Coastal Management and Energy and Transport. These priority sectors emphasize the need to increase the integration of gender considerations—such as addressing women's specific vulnerability to natural disasters, understanding women's role in agriculture and food production, and supporting women entrepreneurs in the energy and transportation sectors—as well as to increase climate-related resources that integrate gender priorities and reflect the needs of women and girls (*IUCN and MoCC Launch Pakistan's First-ever Climate Change Gender Action Plan*, n.d.).

Similar is the case for the KP and Sindh climate change policy. Both policies promise an action plan and an implementation framework which are yet to be created. Punjab's climate change policy is still in the draft phase along with a draft implementation framework, both of which have failed to include women's SRHR needs in the policy. KP and Sindh's action plans are yet to be drafted.

Global research and guidelines:

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (United Nations Canada, 1992) is the primary framework for international cooperation on climate change. The Convention acts as a control guideline for augmented and updated agreements released as research on climate change progresses and has led to agreements including the 1997 Kyoto Protocol and the 2015 Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement for the UNFCCC was adopted in 2015. This Agreement requires all countries to set emissions reduction pledges or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) (post-2020 climate action plans) to prevent the global average temperature from rising 2°C above preindustrial levels. By the second half of the century, the Agreement plans to achieve worldwide net-zero emissions, in which the amount of glasshouse gases emitted equals the amount removed from the atmosphere. Prior to the drafting of this Agreement, research had begun to demonstrate an empirical relationship between climate change, the environment, and realization of human rights. Accordingly, for the first time under the UNFCCC, the 2015 climate change framework included a rights-based language and approaches to generate a more holistic, and universal framework.

The Paris Agreement, although praised for its commitment to gender equality, was considered a "huge disappointment" by the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) (Flavell, 2021). Within the Agreement, the term "woman" is mentioned once, and "gender" is referenced three times. The first and most significant mention of "gender" was within the preamble:

"Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity" (UNFCCC, 2015, Preamble).

The ambiguity within this preamble, particularly how nations "should" take gender equality and empowerment of women into account was viewed as deeply problematic. This ambiguous framing permitted misinterpretation as different states, cultures, and peoples' viewed responsibilities to address needs of women, equality, and empowerment in different ways.



“Gender” is referenced once concerning adaptation and once more when capacity-building is discussed (UNFCCC, 2015, p. 25, 28, respectively). The first reference is to “gender-responsive” approaches to adaptation and capacity-building and concern for achieving “gender balance” on boards and committees in the implementation of the Agreement. There are no quotas, and it is just presumed that “gender balance” will refer to men and women. Lack of specificity to women’s right to participate, harbors the risk of Parties avoiding their responsibility to address the growing inequalities between men and women in climate change policy (Flavell, 2021). Further, the Paris Agreement represents little quantitative progress from UNFCCC (1995) (Conference of the Parties 1 – an apex decision-making body of the UNFCCC), which focused on vulnerability and gender balance. Twenty years on from COP1, many argue that the Paris Agreement failed to substantially address gender inequality in capacity-building (Flavell, 2020). The lack of specific recommendations on gender-inclusive benchmarks, specifically women’s inclusion in adaptation and mitigation policies, meant that only 64 of 190 Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) put forward by States mentioned gender. Like the Agreement, INDCs released by nations like India were disappointing with generic references to gender in the context of the country’s broader sustainable development strategy and not specifically climate change policies.

Despite expanding research on the economic, social, and health effects of climate change on women, only two governments (Liberia and Peru) have special legislation addressing the nexus of climate change and gender. In terms of sexual and reproductive health care, rights, and services, none of the 190 INDCs examined by the WGC included the right to access sexual and reproductive health services in the aftermath of climate change and climate change-related catastrophes (Flavell, 2021).

Kronsell (2019) argues, climate change policy and frameworks are silent on the gendered impacts and harms. Primary focus is often on science, technology, and policy. When a gender-inclusive response to climate change-related events is considered, it is relegated to other instruments, namely, disaster reduction frameworks. Considering that fact, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015–2030, is the only framework to consider access to health services as an “essential” measurement to enhance resilience and empowerment. The SFDRR outlines seven targets and four priorities for action to prevent and reduce existing disaster risks. Risk prevention is concerned with elements that endanger people’s lives, livelihoods, “health, and economic, physical, social, cultural, and environmental assets of persons, communities, and countries” (UNDRR, 2021).

Zaidi and Fordham (2021) argue despite this inclusion, the Sendai Framework has also fallen short in addressing fundamental gender-based risks that arise in disasters. When assessing reports relating to the framework, Zaidi and Fordham (2021) found that, to date, no standalone guide has been produced for the inclusion of women and girls’ voices and needs in disaster risk reduction (DRR) programming. Therefore, they argue that a more nuanced understanding of gender is required to ensure that women and sexual minorities are better represented in its indicators and implementation guidelines (Zaidi and Fordham, 2021). Specific to addressing climate

change, Zaidi and Fordham (2021) call for greater alignment with parallel policy frameworks and other indicator systems (such as the Paris Agreement). Meaning gender inclusion is necessary to provide actionable gender strategies that can be tailored to the national and local levels.

Current climate change conventions and policies are at best narrow when addressing gender-specific matters. Health protection has been identified as an area of “critical concern” for gender-sensitive disaster risk management (Zaidi and Fordham, 2021). Several Sendai indicators measure impact of disaster on human health and call for:

'Strengthening the design and implementation of inclusive policies and social safety net mechanisms, such as supporting access to basic health-care services, including maternal, newborn, and child health, sexual and reproductive health' (Paragraph 30(j) Priority 3)

However, there are no sex-disaggregated sub-indicators to measure loss of access to health services (Zaidi and Fordham, 2021), including SRHR services. Many believe that these measures are at best reductive in their portrayal of vulnerability for all groups, particularly women, who are more likely to require SRHR assistance during catastrophes. These lacking portrayals of vulnerability have consequently neglected SRHR in disaster responses. Benjamine (2016) noted that institutional medical priorities rarely consider sexual and reproductive health as essential emergency relief during humanitarian crises. For example, women reported having fewer contraceptives during the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, even though emergency help included some SRHR funds (Women Deliver, 2020).

There is inadequate knowledge about the SRHR health harms that amplify during disasters. For governments and other actors to pursue SRHR-related initiatives as a basis for climate change adaptation, there is an insufficient foundation of information, guidance, and experience. Yet, at the international level, there is still no agreed-upon definition of gender-responsive climate action, let alone SRHR-specific standards. Though the present World Health Organization (WHO) guidance for health sector adaptation planning incorporates gender considerations to some level, it does not clearly address SRHR issues beyond noting that pregnant women are at risk of malnutrition (Women Deliver, 2020).

Reproductive rights as defined by the ICPD guarantees all couples and individuals the right to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing, and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so. Therefore, access to SRH information and services is part and parcel of reproductive rights, which needs be realized especially in settings of gross inequalities in health such as climate extreme events. The availability of SRH services from the perspectives of the rights-based approach includes having adequate health care infrastructure (for example, hospitals, community health facilities, trained health care professionals), goods (for example, contraceptives, other medicines, equipment), basic amenities (for example, potable drinking water and sanitation) and information and services on SRH including contraception. All these must be available in sufficient quantity and distributed equitably across geographical areas and communities.



As set out above, such services must be available to all, including the marginalized and vulnerable groups who are also the groups most likely to have SRH problems unattended to.

International agreements—such as the UDHR, CEDAW, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)—consider early marriage as a violation of the girl child’s rights. Decisions on marriage are forced on the girl child or made on her behalf by her family members or guardian; denying her sexual rights in terms of the choice of partner among other violations. Early/child marriage robs girls of their childhood, deprives them of education and employment opportunities, imposes on them the burden of household responsibilities at a tender age, denies them the decision-making power in the family, exposes them to gender-based violence, risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV and AIDS, and increases their chances of pregnancy and childbirth complications that could result in maternal morbidities and mortality. Early marriage often goes hand-in-hand with early child bearing as these girls are not equipped with SRH information, or with skills to negotiate delaying pregnancies with their partners and their extended families. Extreme climate events can exacerbate the phenomenon of early marriage for girls. Aggravated by poverty, early marriages occur during extreme events (including disasters caused by climate change as a coping strategy adopted by poor families.

Gender-based violence is defined as “violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. It included acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty.” Whereas, sexual violence is defined as “any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person’s sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work.”The World Disaster Report 2007 has underscored that during emergency situations—for example, natural disasters, armed conflict and other humanitarian emergencies—women’s and girls’ risk of violence increased markedly and the manifestations of violence faced by them are severe. The report also mentioned that there is lack of information and attention on violence against women and girls in the context of natural disasters as compared to armed conflict and displacement. Similarly, there is lack of information and attention on the linkages between climate extreme events and gender-based violence. As per the research from ARROW, their partners showed that women experience different types of gender-based violence due to the various circumstances resulting from climate change. These can be categorized as gender-based violence that occurs within women’s daily routine, within male and female migration contexts, and within displacement settings (Mian & Namasivayam, 2017).

Discussion of results:

Due to the limited time, the primary research was not extensive as envisaged at the start of the study. 91% of the respondents were not married and 64.7% were not sexually active. 94% of the respondents indicated that they are aware of the concept of climate change but when asked to explain their understanding, they stated general terms like, “Flooding, deforestation, global warming and pollution”. Overall, the responses indicated a limited understanding of the concept. 82% of the respondents believe flooding can be avoided through measures like building canals, improving drainage infrastructure, plantation and construction of dams.

When inquired by government led flood warning systems 64% of the respondents were unaware of any such facilities. 84% of the respondents indicated that they do not have access to SRHR.

These results are not surprising considering the trends discussed above. While experts have been trying to curb the effects of climate change since 3 decades now, there seems to be very little consensus on the parameters for SRHR services that need to be adhered to during humanitarian crises. Pakistan is not the only South Asian country to be facing the effects of climate change- the whole region is. However, global commitments through UN treaty bodies seem to create ambiguity regarding the need and adoption of SRHR protocols during climate disaster situations.



Recommendations:

Evidence and ground realities demonstrate that women and girls' SRH—regardless of their age, ethnicity, marital status, socio-economic status, and educational level—are negatively impacted by climate change. Women's and girls' access to SRH information and services are hampered due to damaged health facilities or suspended SRH services during climate extreme events. Though it is encouraging to see countries making attempts to ensure that their National Climate Change Policy, strategies, budgeting and programme, including mitigation and adaptation projects, are shifting towards being more gender-responsive and rights-based, however, SRH usually receive no attention in these documents. Therefore, it is essential to make sure that policies, strategies and programmes, which are now moving towards being gender-responsive, take into account women's human rights and do not overlook their SRH.

- There needs to be increased funding for future research on how climate change impacts women's SRH as very little data and information is available in most Asian countries. Apart from quantitative data, it is also essential to collect qualitative data, such as analysis of social factors and conditions, which will add to a nuanced understanding of the impact of climate change on women's SRH.
- There is an urgent need to commence the climate change and SRHR discourse at international, national and sub-national (provincial and district) levels because currently the SRHR discourse is absent in climate change discussions. The discourse would provide opportunity for SRR advocates to push for inclusion of these rights in national policies, strategies, budgeting and programs.
- There is a dire need to strengthen SRH information and service provision, coordination and collaboration between the government, UN agencies, donors, and international and local NGOs during and after climate extreme events. Healthcare providers should be gender-sensitized so that women survivors feel comfortable in seeking health services. Menstrual hygiene supplies should be included as part of the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) that is distributed to women survivors. Also, governments need to ensure the availability of portable medical equipment, supply of medicines, and that health facilities are able to withstand disasters and remain functional and operational to provide health care services for women, including SRH services.
- Pakistan's provincial climate policies are comprehensive yet they are missing the gendered lens. One cannot blame the Pakistani government completely for disregarding the SRHR angle when international covenants fail to do so as well. Pakistan, instead of waiting for international guidance must lead the way with research and preemptive measures in the future.

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