POLICY BRIEF

CLIMATE FINANCE & FISCAL POLICY

From Disaster Response to Climate Resilience

A Climate Budget Assessment of Gilgit-Baltistan's FY2026-27 Interim Budget

International Climate Policy & Research and Development Divisions

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Published by:

ClimateWatch, International Climate Policy & Research and Development Division

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Internet: www.climatewatch-nccb.org

July 2026

Suggested citation:

Ali, P. (2026). From Disaster Response to Climate Resilience: A Climate Budget Assessment of Gilgit-Baltistan's FY2026–27 Interim Budget. ClimateWatch – International Climate Policy & Research and Development Division.

Note on scope and evidence: This is a rapid interim budget assessment based on publicly available reporting, pending official budget documents. It assesses the interim budget presented on 13 July 2026 using media-consistent figures triangulated across three independent outlets. Official budget documents had not been published online at the time of writing; a source verification register is annexed (Annex A). Figures marked as provisional, including NGO-compiled disaster-loss estimates, should be re-verified against the Annual Budget Statement and consolidated GBDMA/NDMA reporting before further citation.

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Key Messages

Gilgit-Baltistan's first post-election fiscal signal recognises disaster pressure but visibly finances response, not prevention. The FY2026-27 interim budget's identifiable disaster-related lines total roughly Rs2.1 billion, Rs880 million for disaster management and emergency response, Rs770 million and Rs450 million for machinery and institutional capacity, while no visible line funds glacier monitoring, early-warning systems, watershed restoration, or climate-risk screening of new infrastructure.[1]

Visible climate-related spending is small against documented losses. The 2025 flood and GLOF season affected 356,000 people in Gilgit-Baltistan by official count,[2] and caused losses the GB government reportedly estimated above Rs20 billion (an NGO-compiled, provisional figure).[3] On that estimate, the interim budget's visible disaster-related allocations amount to roughly one-tenth of a single year's losses.

Basic budget facts are not yet publicly consistent, a structural, not anecdotal, transparency gap. Reputable outlets disagree on whether the interim budget covers three months or four, and report the non-tax revenue estimate three different ways (Rs1.68, Rs6.08, and Rs6.98 billion).[4] No official budget documents were retrievable from the Finance Department's website at the time of writing.[5]

The final FY2026-27 budget is a live policy window, and the tools already exist. Climate, gender and disaster budget tagging is being scaled to Gilgit-Baltistan under the UK-funded REMIT programme, and a Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review has been carried out for GB.[6] The final budget can adopt tagging without inventing new machinery.

Fiscal dependence frames everything. A single federal non-development grant of Rs88 billion accounts for more than half of GB's Rs158.54 billion resource envelope; the government requested Rs258.95 billion, leaving a stated gap of over Rs100 billion, and the negotiation over that gap currently contains no visible climate ask.[7]

[1]Dawn (Jamil Nagri), 2026, GB unveils Rs20.48bn first quarter budget (accessed 17 July 2026) (Nagri, J)
[2]UN OCHA, 2025, Pakistan 2025 Monsoon Floods: Support Plan for Relief and Early Recovery, October 2025 - April 2026 (accessed 17 July 2026)
[3]Karakoram Area Development Organisation (KADO), 2025, Gilgit-Baltistan Floods & GLOFs Report 2025: District-Wise Situation (accessed 17 July 2026)
[4]Pamir Times, 2026, Interim Budget Highlights Gilgit-Baltistan's Persistent Dependence on Federal Funding (accessed 17 July 2026)
[5]Finance Department, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, 2026, Annual Budget web page, gbfinance.gov.pk/annual-budget (accessed 17 July 2026; no FY2026-27 budget documents retrievable)
[6]Adam Smith International, n.d., Budget Tagging for Climate, Gender, and Disaster Expenditures in Pakistan (accessed 17 July 2026)
[7]The Express Tribune, 2026, New govt presents G-B's interim budget (accessed 17 July 2026)

ClimateWatch Recommendations for the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan

Elaborated in Chapter 8; ordered by feasibility within the current budget cycle.

1. **Publish the interim budget documents**, the Annual Budget Statement, and the schedule of authorised expenditure on the Finance Department website within the interim period itself.
2. **Adopt climate, gender, and disaster budget tagging** in the final FY2026–27 budget, using the REMIT-supported framework already being scaled to Gilgit-Baltistan.
3. **Separate preventive adaptation, disaster preparedness, response, and rehabilitation** into distinct, labelled budget lines in the final budget and the GBDMA demand for grants.
4. **Create a dedicated budget line for community-based GLOF and flood early warning**, as well as glacier and hydrometeorological monitoring.
5. **Publish district- and valley-wise allocations** for high-risk areas alongside the final budget.
6. **Require climate-risk screening** for all new roads, bridges, schools, and health facilities financed through the Annual Development Programme.
7. **Report quarterly releases and expenditure**, not allocations alone, and institute an annual Gilgit-Baltistan climate budget review.

Executive Summary

On 13 July 2026, Gilgit-Baltistan's newly elected government presented a Rs20.478 billion interim budget to authorise expenditure for the opening months of FY2026-27, alongside a resource envelope of Rs158.54 billion for the full year, an increase of about Rs12.23 billion on FY2025-26, and a request to the federal government for Rs258.95 billion, leaving a stated gap of more than Rs100 billion.[8] Presenting the budget, Adviser to the Chief Minister on Finance Muhammad Ali Akhtar named climate change, alongside power, health, roads, bridges, and water resources, among the sectors the region's existing resources cannot adequately address.[9]

This brief classifies the budget's visible allocations against a five-category climate relevance rubric. Three findings follow. First, the interim budget recognises disaster pressure but concentrates its visible climate-related spending on response and machinery: roughly Rs2.1 billion across three lines, equal to about 10% of the interim outlay, 1.3% of the annual resource envelope, and one-tenth of the Rs20 billion-plus losses GB reportedly sustained in the 2025 flood and GLOF season alone (an NGO-compiled, provisional estimate).[10] Second, no visible line funds preventive adaptation, glacier monitoring, early warning, watershed restoration, resilient irrigation or climate-risk screening, although prevention is where mountain budgets buy the most protection per rupee. Third, the region's budget transparency infrastructure is not keeping pace with its risk profile: the three main press accounts disagree on the budget's period and on the non-tax revenue estimate, and no official documents were online at the time of writing.[11]

This brief finds that the interim budget is climate-aware but not yet climate-accountable: it funds the machinery of response while leaving prevention invisible and unverifiable, at precisely the moment when the negotiation over the final FY2026-27 budget offers Gilgit-Baltistan its best opening in years to institutionalise climate-tagged, preventive, district-wise public finance. This Rapid Policy Brief is an assessment of the interim budget only, based on publicly available reporting pending publication of official budget documents; every figure's verification status is recorded in the Annex.

[8]Dawn (Jamil Nagri), 2026, GB unveils Rs20.48bn first quarter budget (accessed 17 July 2026)
[9]Dawn (Jamil Nagri), 2026, GB unveils Rs20.48bn first quarter budget (accessed 17 July 2026)
[10]Karakoram Area Development Organisation (KADO), 2025, Gilgit-Baltistan Floods & GLOFs Report 2025: District-Wise Situation (accessed 17 July 2026)

[11]Finance Department, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, 2026, Annual Budget web page, gbfinance.gov.pk/annual-budget (accessed 17 July 2026; no FY2026-27 budget documents retrievable)

1 Introduction

1.1 A budget presented mid-disaster-season

Gilgit-Baltistan is one of Pakistan's most climate-exposed regions, facing glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), flash floods, landslides, water stress and infrastructure disruption across its mountain valleys. The 2025 season made the exposure concrete. By the season's end, UN OCHA, drawing on NDMA figures, reported 356,000 people affected in Gilgit-Baltistan, within a national toll of more than 1,000 deaths and 6.9 million people affected.[12] NGO-compiled district-wise reporting from mid-season, which remains provisional pending consolidated official figures, recorded more than 70 deaths, over 500 homes destroyed and nearly 700 damaged, dozens of bridges lost, at least 22 km of road swept away, and losses the GB government reportedly estimated at above Rs20 billion, against which it requested Rs7 billion in urgent federal assistance.[13] A single event, the 22 August 2025 GLOF in Gupis (Ghizer), was reported to have destroyed over 330 houses and dammed a river into an artificial lake more than 7 km long.[14]

The 2026 season is already following the pattern. The National Emergencies Operation Centre warned in February of elevated GLOF risk between March and September 2026;[15] by early July, NDMA had issued a GLOF alert for the Hoper and Hisper valleys in Nagar, flash flooding had temporarily blocked the Karakoram Highway near Khunjerab, and floodwaters had damaged homes, crops, bridges, and irrigation infrastructure in Ghanche and Ghizer.[16]

It is into this situation that Gilgit-Baltistan's first post-election budget arrived. Following the 7 June 2026 elections and the swearing-in of Chief Minister Amjad Hussain, the new government presented an interim budget on 13 July to keep departments functioning and salaries paid while it negotiates full-year resources with Islamabad.[17] The situation and the budget are in direct tension: the region's climate losses are annual and compounding, while its visible climate spending is small, reactive, and, as this brief documents, difficult to verify.

[12] UN OCHA, 2025, Pakistan 2025 Monsoon Floods: Support Plan for Relief and Early Recovery, October 2025 - April 2026 (accessed 17 July 2026)
[13] Karakoram Area Development Organisation (KADO), 2025, Gilgit-Baltistan Floods & GLOFs Report 2025: District-Wise Situation (accessed 17 July 2026)
[14] The Watchers, 2025, Glacial lake outburst flood destroys over 300 homes in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan (accessed 17 July 2026)
[15] Daily Pakistan, 2026, Gilgit-Baltistan, KP Flood Threat Update amid rising GLOF risk (accessed 17 July 2026)
[16] ProPakistani, 2026, Melting Glaciers Cause Floods Across Gilgit Baltistan (accessed 17 July 2026)
[17] The Express Tribune, 2026, New govt presents G-B's interim budget (accessed 17 July 2026)

1.2 Objective and roadmap

This brief assesses whether the FY2026-27 interim budget finances preventive, equitable and locally appropriate climate resilience, or mainly post-disaster response and administrative continuity. Chapter 2 presents what the interim budget shows, including a log of discrepancies across sources. Chapter 3 classifies and scores the visible allocations against a five-category climate relevance rubric. Chapter 4 examines the balance between reactive and preventive spending and its consequences for exposed communities. Chapter 5 assesses transparency, tagging and targeting, and the policy window that the final budget represents. Chapter 6 presents the ClimateWatch Analysis; Chapters 7 and 8 state ClimateWatch's position and its recommendations; Chapter 9 offers a Policy Trade-off Note, and Chapter 10 concludes.

1.3 Scope and limitations

I. This is an interim budget assessment based on public reporting triangulated across three independent outlets, pending official budget documents. It is not a full-year expenditure audit.

II. The brief assesses budget intention and allocation visibility, not implementation effectiveness; no release or expenditure data were available.

III. Figures reported by different outlets differ in places; the brief flags every unresolved discrepancy rather than silently selecting one figure (Table 1).

IV. The classification of spending as climate-relevant is ClimateWatch's analytical judgment and should be read alongside official climate budget tagging once available.

V. No community consultations could be completed in the drafting window; the community-relevance findings draw on documented disaster impacts, and targeted interviews are planned for the follow-up paper on the full budget.

2 What the Interim Budget Shows

2.1 The envelope and the gap

The headline architecture is consistent across sources. Total estimated resources for FY2026-27 stand at Rs158.54 billion, up about Rs12.23 billion on the previous year.[18] Of this, Rs88 billion , more than 55% , is a single federal non-development grant.[19] The government sought Rs258.95 billion from the federal government for the full year, a request 63% larger than the resources currently available, leaving a stated gap of just over Rs100 billion that is the subject of ongoing negotiation with Islamabad.[20]

The interim authorisation itself is Rs 20.478 billion. Salaries and allowances account for Rs15.22 billion of it, roughly three-quarters of the interim outlay, with Rs1.38 billion for essential administrative and operational expenses.[21] The wheat subsidy programme is allocated Rs15 billion, with Rs3 billion expected back through wheat sales and further federal assistance being sought to sustain it.[22] For development, Rs16.97 billion is allocated under the Annual Development Programme, with another Rs4 billion expected through the Prime Minister's Special Development Initiatives, both dependent on federal support, and neither yet accompanied by a published project list.[23]

2.2 Disaster and climate-adjacent lines

Three lines carry the budget's visible disaster spending: Rs880 million for disaster management and emergency response, Rs770 million reported by Dawn as procurement of heavy machinery and by Pamir Times as strengthening the GB Disaster Management Authority, and Rs450 million reported variously as heavy drones or emergency response machinery.[24] Dawn additionally reports Rs275.8 million under the Prime Minister's grant for rehabilitation of flood-affected areas, while Pamir Times reports Rs1.28 billion under the PM's flood rehabilitation package on the receipts side, likely a receipt line and an allocation line rather than a contradiction, but unverifiable without the budget books.[25]

Health-adjacent lines include Rs300 million for the Health Endowment Fund, Rs100 million for ambulances, and Rs25 million reported as medicines in one account and tuberculosis eradication

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[18] The Express Tribune, 2026, New govt presents G-B's interim budget (accessed 17 July 2026)
[19] Pamir Times, 2026, Interim Budget Highlights Gilgit-Baltistan's Persistent Dependence on Federal Funding (accessed 17 July 2026)
[20] Dawn (Jamil Nagri), 2026, GB unveils Rs20.48bn first quarter budget (accessed 17 July 2026)
[21] Dawn (Jamil Nagri), 2026, GB unveils Rs20.48bn first quarter budget (accessed 17 July 2026)
[22] The Express Tribune, 2026, New govt presents G-B's interim budget (accessed 17 July 2026)
[23] Pamir Times, 2026, Interim Budget Highlights Gilgit-Baltistan's Persistent Dependence on Federal Funding (accessed 17 July 2026)
[24] Dawn (Jamil Nagri), 2026, GB unveils Rs20.48bn first quarter budget (accessed 17 July 2026)
[25] Pamir Times, 2026, Interim Budget Highlights Gilgit-Baltistan's Persistent Dependence on Federal Funding (accessed 17 July 2026)

in another.[26] A Rs500 million block allocation is reserved for unforeseen emergencies and urgent administrative requirements.[27]

2.3 What the sources cannot agree on

Budget analysis credibility lives in the distinction between allocation and expenditure, original and revised, and, in this case, between three-month and four-month authorisations. Table 1 logs the discrepancies this brief could not resolve from public sources. None is trivial: the period discrepancy alone changes every annualised comparison by a third.

ITEM	DAWN	EXPRESS TRIBUNE	PAMIR TIMES	TREATMENT IN THIS BRIEF
Budget period	Three months / first quarter	Three months / first quarter	First four months	Called 'the interim period'; no annualised ratios computed from it
Non-tax revenue	Rs6.98B target	Rs6.08B	Rs1.68B	Range reported; no single figure used analytically
Rs770M line	Procurement of heavy machinery	-	Strengthening GBDMA	Counted as disaster-related; purpose flagged as unverified
Rs450M line	Acquisition of heavy drones	-	Emergency response machinery	Counted as disaster-related; purpose flagged as unverified
PM flood package	Rs275.8M grant for rehabilitation	-	Rs1.28B on the receipts side	Treated as separate receipt and allocation lines, pending budget books
Local govt lines	Rs292M councils + Rs430M urban development	Rs202M local government	Rs430M local government institutions	Not used analytically

Table 1: Discrepancy log across the three primary press accounts of the interim budget (Dawn; The Express Tribune; Pamir Times, all 14 July 2026).

A further absence matters as much as any discrepancy: at the time of writing, the Finance Department's annual budget web page returned no FY2026-27 documents, no budget speech, no Annual Budget Statement, no schedule of authorised expenditure.[28] Every figure in this chapter, therefore, rests on journalism about documents the public cannot yet read. The journalists' role here is witness, not evidence; the evidence is still unpublished.

[26] The Express Tribune, 2026, New govt presents G-B's interim budget (accessed 17 July 2026)
[27] Pamir Times, 2026, Interim Budget Highlights Gilgit-Baltistan's Persistent Dependence on Federal Funding (accessed 17 July 2026)
[28] Finance Department, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, 2026, Annual Budget web page, gbfinance.gov.pk/annual-budget (accessed 17 July 2026; no FY2026-27 budget documents retrievable)

3 Climate Budget Assessment

3.1 Methodology: classification and scoring

This brief does not simply add up budget lines, because addition answers the wrong question: not how much is spent near climate risk, but what kind of protection the spending buys. Each visible allocation is therefore classified into one of five categories:

Preventive adaptation, spending that reduces future climate losses before disasters occur: early warning, glacier and hydrometeorological monitoring, resilient irrigation, safer settlement planning, slope and riverbank bioengineering, watershed restoration.

Disaster preparedness, spending that improves readiness, response speed and last-mile protection: GBDMA capacity, shelters, evacuation systems, machinery, communications, local drills.

Disaster response and rehabilitation - necessary but reactive spending: relief, emergency reserves, flood rehabilitation, ambulances, rescue machinery. The analytical question is whether it builds back safer.

Mitigation and green development: spending that reduces emissions or environmental stress while supporting resilience: renewable energy, efficiency, low-carbon transport, waste management, ecosystem restoration.

Potentially climate-harmful or risk-blind spending, infrastructure in hazard zones without climate-risk screening, which can build new exposure into the public estate.

Each line is then scored 0-3 against five criteria: climate relevance, preventive value, transparency, equity and targeting, and measurable outcomes, per the rubric in Table 2. Scores rest only on publicly available information: a line that may be well-designed internally but discloses nothing scores low on transparency by construction, which is the point. The classification is ClimateWatch's analytical judgment and should be read alongside official climate budget tagging once available.

CRITERION	0	1	2	3
Climate relevance	No link to climate or disaster risk	Indirect link	Clear climate or disaster link	Direct, explicit climate-resilience objective
Preventive value	No prevention	Weak prevention	Some risk reduction	Strong risk reduction before disaster
Transparency	No detail	Headline line only	Department or project detail	Project, district, outputs, and monitoring indicators available
Equity & targeting	No vulnerable-group or district targeting	Generic region-wide mention	Some vulnerable-area focus	District/valley, gender, youth, disability, and community targeting specified
Measurable outcomes	No output	Activity only	Output identified	Outcome indicator and reporting mechanism

Table 2: ClimateWatch scoring rubric for budget-line assessment (0-3 per criterion).

3.2 Classification of visible lines

Table 3 applies the classification to every line visible in the three press accounts of the interim budget.

VISIBLE LINE	AMOUNT	CATEGORY	PREVENTIVE VALUE	TRANSPARENCY
Disaster management & emergency response	Rs880M	Response	Low - reactive by design	1 - headline line only
Heavy machinery / GBDMA strengthening	Rs770M	Preparedness	Medium - readiness, not risk reduction	1 - purpose disputed across sources
Heavy drones/emergency machinery	Rs450M	Preparedness	Medium - could serve for monitoring if tasked with it	1 - purpose disputed across sources
PM grant, flood-area rehabilitation	Rs275.8M	Rehabilitation	Low-medium - depends on build-back standards	1 - headline line only
Health Endowment Fund	Rs300M	Social / health resilience	Indirect	1 - headline line only
Ambulances	Rs100M	Response	Low	1 - headline line only
Medicines / TB eradication	Rs25M	Social / health	Indirect	1 - purpose disputed
Wheat subsidy	Rs15B	Social protection	Conditional, see 3.3	1 - headline line only
Annual Development Programme	Rs16.97B	Unclassifiable	Unknown, no project list published	0 - no detail available

VISIBLE LINE	AMOUNT	CATEGORY	PREVENTIVE VALUE	TRANSPARENCY
Preventive adaptation (early warning, glacier monitoring, watershed restoration, resilient irrigation, risk screening)	None visible	-	-	-

Table 3: Classification of visible interim-budget lines against the ClimateWatch climate relevance rubric (allocations as reported by Dawn, The Express Tribune and Pamir Times, 2026). Note: figures represent reported allocations, not expenditure; the interim period discrepancy is unresolved.

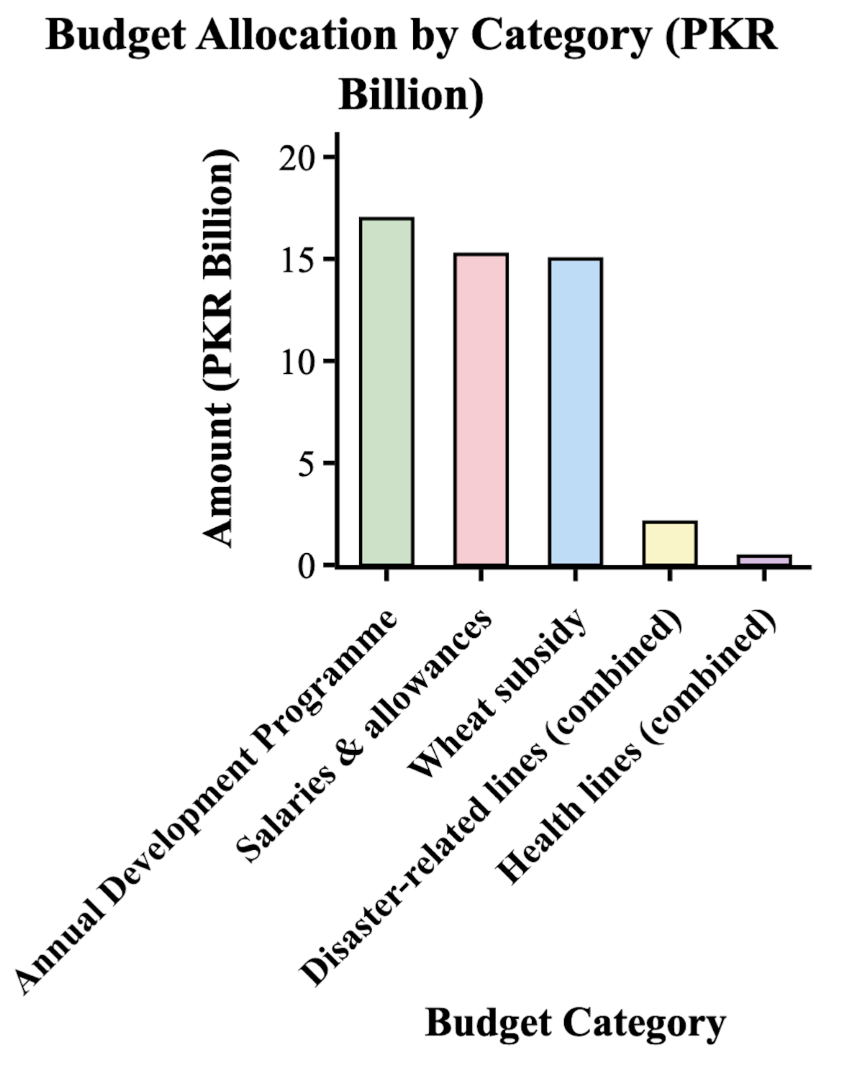
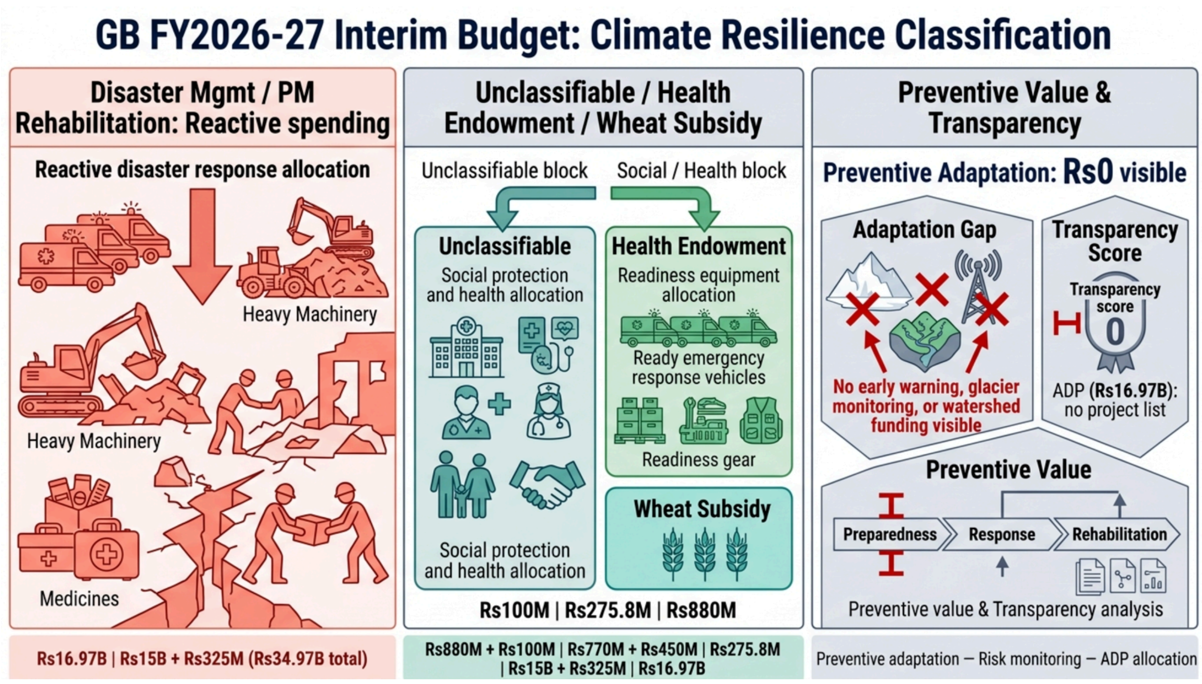


Figure 1: Selected visible allocations in the GB FY2026-27 interim budget, PKR billion (Dawn; Pamir Times, 2026). Disaster-related lines combine the Rs880M, Rs770M, and Rs450M allocations; health combines the endowment fund, ambulances, and medicines lines.



3.3 Findings

Finding 1. The interim budget recognises disaster pressure, but its visible allocations are concentrated in emergency response and institutional capacity, the two categories that spend after or just before a disaster, not the ones that reduce the disaster's probability or reach.

Finding 2. Preventive adaptation is not visible at all. No line in any of the three press accounts funds early warning, glacier or hydrometeorological monitoring, watershed restoration, resilient irrigation, safer settlement planning, or climate-risk screening of infrastructure. This is a statement about visibility, not necessarily about absence: some such spending may sit inside the Rs16.97 billion ADP. But no project list has been published, so neither the public nor this brief can tell.

Finding 3. The social floor is large, and its climate linkage is unbuilt. The Rs15 billion wheat subsidy is socially essential in a high-cost mountain region and seven times larger than all visible disaster-related lines combined. It is not, by itself, climate resilience: it becomes so only if connected to local food-system resilience, climate-exposed livelihoods and disaster-period food security, connections the budget does not yet articulate. ClimateWatch does not argue against the subsidy; it argues for making its resilience function explicit and measurable.

Finding 4. Transparency scores are uniformly minimal. Every visible line scores 1 of 3 on transparency, a headline amount with no department detail, district breakdown, output or outcome indicator, and the ADP scores 0. On current disclosure, no allocation in this budget could be tracked from announcement to outcome.

4 Reactive versus Preventive Spending

4.1 The arithmetic of the imbalance

The three visible disaster-related lines total Rs2.1 billion (Rs880M + Rs770M + Rs450M). That is roughly 10% of the Rs20.478 billion interim outlay, about 1.3% of the Rs158.54 billion annual resource envelope, and approximately one-tenth of the Rs20 billion-plus losses reportedly estimated by the GB government for the 2025 flood season, an NGO-compiled figure that remains provisional pending consolidated GBDMA/NDMA reporting.[29] Set against the Rs7 billion in urgent federal assistance GB reportedly requested after those floods, the interim budget's entire visible disaster provision is less than a third of what one season's response required.[30]

The comparison is deliberately conservative: it counts all three lines as climate spending even though their purposes are disputed across sources, and it makes no annualised projection because the budget period itself is disputed. Even so counted, the pattern is unambiguous, and it is the pattern, not the individual amounts, that this brief contests. Response capacity is necessary; every rupee of the Rs 880 million emergency line will likely be needed before September. The argument is about the missing complement, not the visible spending.

[29] Karakoram Area Development Organisation (KADO), 2025, Gilgit-Baltistan Floods & GLOFs Report 2025: District-Wise Situation (accessed 17 July 2026)
[30] Karakoram Area Development Organisation (KADO), 2025, Gilgit-Baltistan Floods & GLOFs Report 2025: District-Wise Situation (accessed 17 July 2026)

4.2 What the imbalance means in the valleys

Communities in Gupis entered winter 2025 with more than 330 houses reported destroyed and a 7 km artificial lake above their valley.[31] They entered summer 2026 under a fresh NDMA GLOF alert, with the Karakoram Highway blocked at Khunjerab, a suspension bridge submerged in Ghanche, and homes and crops damaged again in Ghizer.[32] For these communities, the difference between a preventive and a reactive budget is not an accounting taxonomy. Early-warning systems, glacier monitoring and watershed stabilisation determine whether the next outburst arrives with hours of warning or none; rehabilitation budgets determine only how the losses are counted afterwards.

4.3 The peer evidence: visibility changes allocations

The regional experience suggests that making climate spending visible is not cosmetic; it changes what gets funded. Nepal has operated a climate budget code since FY2012-13, allowing year-on-year tracking of climate-relevant allocations. Pakistan's own federal experience is more recent and more

[31] The Watchers, 2025, Glacial lake outburst flood destroys over 300 homes in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan (accessed 17 July 2026)
[32] ProPakistani, 2026, Melting Glaciers Cause Floods Across Gilgit Baltistan (accessed 17 July 2026)

striking: after climate budget tagging was embedded with REMIT support, federal climate budget estimates rose by 67% in FY2024-25, with gender allocations up 20%.[33] The IMF's public financial management staff have documented Pakistan's climate tagging as a functioning reform, not an aspiration.[34] Gilgit-Baltistan is already within this reform's stated scaling perimeter, and a Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review has been carried out for the region.[35] The final FY2026-27 budget could be the first GB budget to publish tagged climate allocations, using machinery that already exists

5 Transparency, Tagging and Targeting

5.1 A Structural Transparency Gap, Not Anecdotal

Three independent, professional outlets covered the same budget speech on the same day and produced three different budget periods and three different non-tax revenue figures. That is not a failure of journalism; it is what happens when a government presents figures orally without simultaneously publishing the documents. The Finance Department's website carried no FY2026-27 budget documents at the time of writing.[36] Until the Annual Budget Statement is published, every analysis of this budget, including this one, is an analysis of reportage.

5.2 The international stakes of domestic disclosure

The disclosure gap is not only a domestic accountability problem. Gilgit-Baltistan's case for federal resources, and Pakistan's case for international adaptation finance, in which GB's cryosphere risk features prominently, rest on demonstrating both need and absorptive credibility. A region that cannot show donors or federal negotiators a tagged, district-wise, outcome-linked climate budget is asking them to fund a black box.

[33]Adam Smith International, n.d., Budget Tagging for Climate, Gender, and Disaster Expenditures in Pakistan (accessed 17 July 2026)
[34]IMF Public Financial Management Blog, 2025, Climate Budget Tagging in Pakistan (accessed 17 July 2026)
[35]Governance of Climate Change Finance for Asia-Pacific (UNDP), n.d., Pakistan country profile (accessed 17 July 2026)

[36]Finance Department, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, 2026, Annual Budget web page, gbfinance.gov.pk/annual-budget (accessed 17 July 2026; no FY2026-27 budget documents retrievable)

Conversely, a GB budget with published climate tags would strengthen the evidentiary basis of every future finance request, from the Rs100 billion federal gap negotiation to GCF and Adaptation Fund pipelines. Budget transparency is, in this sense, a revenue strategy.

5.3 The youth and equity dimension

No visible line carries district, valley, gender, youth, or disability targeting. For a region where a large share of the population is under 30 and where disasters repeatedly interrupt schooling, water access and livelihoods, untargeted budgets default to spending where administration is easiest, not where exposure is highest. The generation that will carry the compounding cost of today's under-investment in prevention currently has no way to see, let alone contest, how the money protecting its future is allocated.

6 ClimateWatch Analysis: Visible Response, Invisible Prevention

ClimateWatch’s central assessment is that Gilgit-Baltistan’s interim budget is climate-aware but not yet climate-accountable. It recognises disaster pressure, but does not yet make prevention, targeting, releases, or outcomes visible enough for public scrutiny. Four patterns run through the evidence.

1. Prevention is losing out to response on what is visible. Rs2.1 billion in response and machinery lines against zero visible rupees for early warning, monitoring, or restoration is not a balance; it is an absence. The budget spends where disasters end, not where they begin.

2. The core finding is unverifiability, not proven neglect. This brief cannot show that GB spends nothing on prevention; some may sit unlabelled inside the Rs16.97 billion ADP. What it can show is that no citizen, journalist, legislator, or donor can currently verify any climate claim about this budget. A budget that cannot show prevention cannot manage it, and cannot be held to it.

3. The region's main fiscal event contains no visible climate ask. The negotiation over the Rs100 billion gap between resources and requests is Gilgit-Baltistan's central budget process this year. Climate change is named in the rhetoric of need, but no reporting indicates a ring-fenced climate component in the Rs258.95 billion request. A coordination-and-continuity budget is standing in for a resourcing strategy.[37]

[37] Dawn (Jamil Nagri), 2026, GB unveils Rs20.48bn first quarter budget (accessed 17 July 2026)

4. Interim budgets set defaults. What enters the interim budget unlabelled tends to stay unlabelled in the full budget; categories, once printed, persist. The interim period is therefore not a pause before the real decisions; it is the moment the final budget's information architecture is being set.

7 ClimateWatch's Position

ClimateWatch holds that climate resilience is a governance, development, and intergenerational equity challenge, not solely an environmental one. Relevant to this brief, we believe effective climate action requires:

A. Evidence-based policymaking grounded in local realities.
B. Transparent and accountable climate finance systems, including consistent provincial- and regional-level budget tagging.
C. Long-term investment in resilience, adaptation and climate capacity-building, with prevention funded before response is needed.
D. Meaningful participation of youth and affected communities in climate decision-making, including budget scrutiny.
E. Alignment between Pakistan's climate commitments and public expenditure priorities at every tier of government.

8 Recommendations

Ordered by feasibility within the current budget cycle: the first two require only decisions already within the Finance Department's power during the interim period; the middle recommendations belong in the final FY2026-27 budget; the last two build the accountability cycle around it. Our operational experience, from Climate Baithak convenings to the Glacier School's work in GLOF-exposed communities, is that durable wins come from narrow, resourced asks tied to a specific mechanism, not omnibus demand lists. These recommendations are written accordingly.

1. Publish the interim budget documents now. The Finance Department should place the budget speech, Annual Budget Statement, and schedule of authorised expenditure on gbfinance.gov.pk within the interim period. This costs nothing, resolves the period and revenue discrepancies logged in Table 1, and signals that the new government intends to be legible.

2. Adopt climate, gender, and disaster budget tagging in the final FY2026-27 budget. The Finance and Planning & Development departments should apply the REMIT-supported tagging framework, already being scaled to GB, to the final budget and publish a tagged annex, so that climate-relevant allocations are identifiable at the line level from the first full budget of this assembly.

3. Separate prevention from response in the budget's structure. The final budget and the GBDMA demand for grants should carry distinct, labelled lines for preventive adaptation, preparedness, response, and rehabilitation, so emergency spending is never again mistaken for resilience investment.

4. Fund early warning and monitoring as a dedicated line. The final budget should create a named allocation for community-based GLOF and flood early-warning systems and for glacier and hydrometeorological monitoring, implemented by GBDMA and EPA with PMD and university partners. The Glacier School's experience in cryosphere communities is that last-mile warning capacity, not equipment stockpiles, is the binding constraint when an outburst comes.

5. Publish district- and valley-wise allocations for high-risk areas. Planning & Development should publish the ADP project list with district identifiers, and the final budget should show what reaches the valleys carrying documented GLOF exposure, Gupis-Yasin, Hoper-Hisper, Hushe, and their peers.

6. Screen infrastructure for climate risk before it is built. The Works and Planning departments should require climate-risk screening for every new road, bridge, school, and health facility in the ADP, so the development budget stops building tomorrow's exposure.

7. Report releases and expenditure quarterly, and institute an annual climate budget review. The Finance Department should publish quarterly releases and expenditure statements against the tagged lines, and the Assembly should institute an annual GB climate budget review with civil society participation, converting tagging from a document into an accountability cycle.

9 Policy Trade-off Note

The strongest case for this interim budget deserves stating plainly. An interim budget's legitimate job is continuity, not reform: a government weeks into office, authorising a quarter's expenditure while its resource envelope is still being negotiated, arguably should not improvise new schemes or pre-empt the assembly's full budget debate. Salaries and the wheat subsidy are the social floor of a high-cost mountain region; paying them on time is itself a form of resilience. We recognise, too, that the new government inherited this disclosure infrastructure rather than building it.

The trade-off is that every month of untagged, undocumented spending extends the period in which the region's climate performance cannot be assessed by anyone, including the government itself, and entrenches the interim budget's categories as the final budget's defaults. Whether the continuity-first choice was justified will be verifiable within months: it depends on whether the final FY2026-27 budget publishes tagged climate allocations, separates prevention from response, and discloses district-wise detail. ClimateWatch will assess the final budget against exactly these tests.

10 Conclusion

One structural weakness runs through every chapter of this brief: invisibility. The interim budget's climate spending is invisible where it may exist (inside an unpublished ADP), disputed where it is visible (the machinery lines), and absent where it matters most (prevention). The discrepancies between press accounts, the empty official website, the untagged lines, and the missing district detail are the same problem in four forms: a public finance system that cannot yet show what it is doing about the region's defining risk.

The encouraging fact is that this is the cheapest kind of weakness to fix, and the moment is right. The final FY2026-27 budget is still in motion; the tagging machinery exists and is already being scaled to GB; the federal negotiation gives the new government every incentive to demonstrate credibility. The strongest contribution this brief can make is not to declare the interim budget good or bad; on the evidence available, no one can, but to set the standard the final budget should meet: tagged, separated, targeted, published, and reviewed. Gilgit-Baltistan's glaciers will not wait for better documentation. Its budget can stop waiting now.

Annex A: Source Verification Register

Status codes: **media-consistent** (identical across at least two independent outlets; pending official confirmation), **discrepant** (sources disagree; logged in Table 1), **not yet public** (official document required and not retrievable at time of writing).

ITEM	FIGURE USED	SOURCES	STATUS
Total resources FY2026-27	Rs158.54B	Dawn; Tribune; Pamir Times	Media-consistent
Federal request FY2026-27	Rs258.95B	Dawn; Pamir Times	Media-consistent
Interim authorisation	Rs20.478B	Dawn; Tribune	Media-consistent
Budget period	Interim (3 or 4 months)	Dawn/Tribune vs Pamir Times	Discrepant
Federal non-development grant	Rs88B	Dawn; Tribune; Pamir Times	Media-consistent
Non-tax revenue	Rs1.68-6.98B	All three outlets differ	Discrepant
Salaries & allowances	Rs15.22B	Dawn; Tribune; Pamir Times	Media-consistent
Wheat subsidy/sales recovery	Rs15B / Rs3B	Dawn; Tribune; Pamir Times	Media-consistent
ADP / PM Special Development Initiatives	Rs16.97B / Rs4B	Pamir Times	Single-source; verify
Disaster response line	Rs880M	Dawn; Pamir Times	Media-consistent
Rs770M and Rs450M lines	Rs770M / Rs450M	Purpose differs: Dawn vs Pamir Times	Discrepant (amounts consistent)
PM flood rehabilitation	Rs275.8M (alloc.) / Rs1.28B (receipt)	Dawn / Pamir Times	Needs reconciliation
Health lines	Rs300M / Rs100M / Rs25M	Dawn; Tribune	Media-consistent (Rs25M purpose differs)
2025 season, people affected in GB	356,000	UN OCHA (NDMA figures)	Official, seasonal
2025 flood losses & casualties (GB detail)	Rs20B+ losses; 70+ deaths (mid-season)	KADO 2025 report; press	NGO-compiled, provisional; verify with GBDMA/NDMA consolidated reporting
Annual Budget Statement; ADP project list; GBDMA demand for grants; revised estimates FY2025-26; release/expenditure data	,	Finance Dept.; P&D GB; GBDMA	Not yet public, required before the follow-up paper

Table 4: Verification status of every figure used in this brief, as of 17 July 2026.

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Web and media sources are cited with the date this brief accessed them, because several figures rest on reporting of documents not yet published officially.

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About ClimateWatch

ClimateWatch is a youth-led climate think-tank operating as a programmatic office of the Northern Citizens' Community Board (NCCB), an ECOSOC-accredited organization. Based in Pakistan, ClimateWatch bridges stringent policy research with on-the-ground climate advocacy, producing evidence-based analysis that informs national and international climate governance.

Our Mission: ClimateWatch exists to ensure that Pakistan's most climate-vulnerable communities, from the cryosphere regions of Gilgit-Baltistan to the floodplains of Sindh, are represented in climate policy decisions at every level, from local government to international negotiations.

Our Work

- *International Climate Policy (ICP)* tracks and analyzes Pakistan's engagement with global climate frameworks, including the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement, and associated finance mechanisms, and has followed and engaged with UNFCCC processes, including COP and Subsidiary Body sessions, most recently SB64 (Bonn, 2026).
- *Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)* operates under UNESCO's ESD 2030 agenda, translating global sustainability goals into locally leveled learning initiatives. Flagship project: the Glacier School, bringing climate and earth science education to mountain communities in Gilgit-Baltistan facing glacier dynamics and GLOF risks.

– *Research & Development (R&D)* produces primary research on Pakistan's climate vulnerability, fiscal policy, and adaptation gaps.

This brief is a product of the International Climate Policy and Research & Development divisions working jointly.

Contact & Citation

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Suggested citation: *Ali, P. (2026). From Disaster Response to Climate Resilience: A Climate Budget Assessment of Gilgit-Baltistan's FY2026–27 Interim Budget. ClimateWatch – International Climate Policy & Research and Development Division.*