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ClimateWatch

FY26-27
CLIMATE BUDGET REDUCTION

Implications for Resilience, Climate Finance, and Intergenerational Equity

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INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE POLICY & RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

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Executive Summary

ALLOCATION

The ministry's allocation stands at **Rs 2.48bn**, only **0.25**% of the federal PSDP.

REVENUE

For every **Rs 100** collected in green taxes, **Rs 10.6** goes to climate action initiatives.

The Pakistani fiscal year 2026-27 climate budget reveals a mixed message. While on one side the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination is provided with a sum of Rs 2.478 billion for continuing activities related to ecological restoration, green skills development, urban resilience and institution building; on the other side, the total sum is much less than the gravity of the problem and the overall fiscal trend reveals under-utilization of the available resources, poor absorption capacity and preference for disaster response rather than disaster prevention.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination secured 2.48 billion for FY 2026-27.

"SHOCKING"

Senator Sherry Rehman chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, remarked during a committee meeting, "Climate risks are increasing, not decreasing, yet allocations continue to shrink."

EL NINO WARNINGS

NDMA Chairman Inam Haider Malik informed members that the 2026-27 period is expected to be influenced by El Niño conditions, which are likely to intensify extreme weather events across the region.

According to MoCC&EC spokesperson Mohammad Saleem Shaikh, "The PSDP allocation for FY2026-27 demonstrates that climate action is no longer a peripheral issue but a national development priority. These investments are designed to strengthen ecosystems, create green economic opportunities and protect communities against the growing impacts of climate change."

SUFFICIENT ?

Introduction

Pakistan is widely recognized as one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, contributing less than 1% of global greenhouse emissions. The country bears the burden of climate disasters, from recurrent floods to extreme heatwaves. However, at a time when climate risks are drastically increasing, **the federal budget for FY2026-27 has reduced the climate ministry's allocation by roughly 83% in five years, bringing it down to just Rs. 2.478 billion.** This report will analyze the implications of the budget cut through four critical lenses: administrative, local, international, and youth.

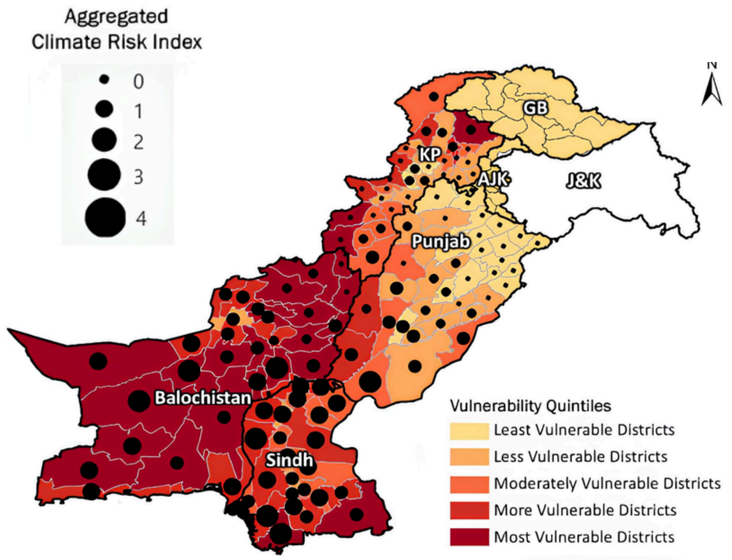


Figure 1: Climate Risk Exposure Across Pakistan

Core Analytical Framework

Administrative & Local Lens

This report first utilizes an administrative lens to evaluate systemic underspending, capacity deficits, and coordination gaps between federal ministries and provincial bodies. It then applies a localized lens to document the direct socio-economic fallout, mounting acute food insecurity, and infrastructure risks facing heavily exposed vulnerable communities.

International & Youth Lens

The framework further examines an international lens to analyze the diplomatic credibility gap created by reducing domestic funds while seeking global loss and damage resources. Finally, a youth lens is deployed to explore the deep intergenerational injustices imposed on future generations by severely underfunding green skills development

The Budget

Climate ministry PSDP Allocation

The Allocated Budget and Major Project Allocations

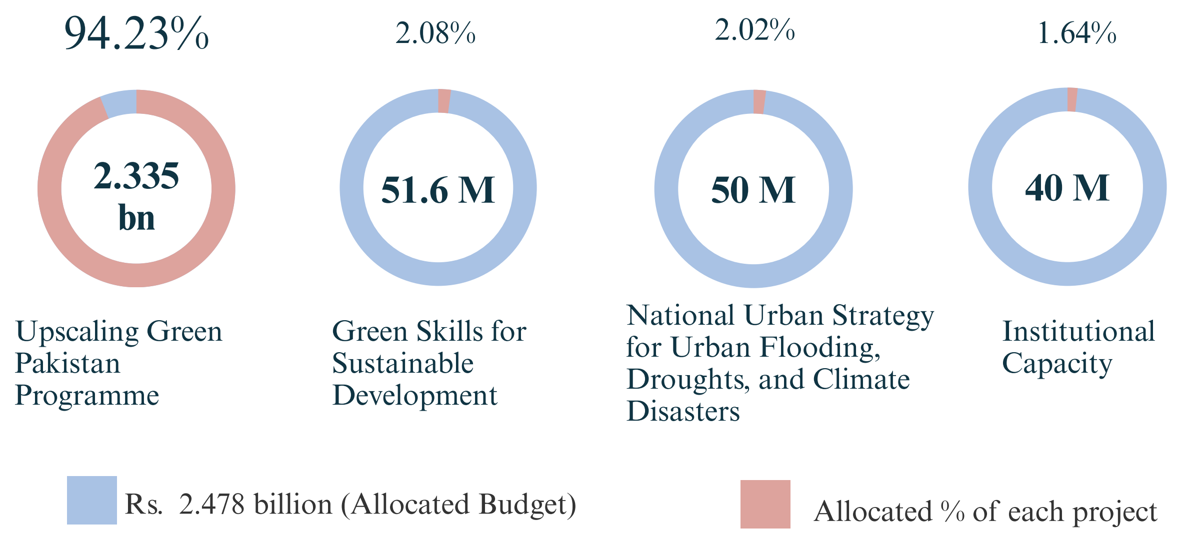


Figure 2: PSDP Climate Ministry Internal Allocation Breakdown (FY2026-27)

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination secured 2.478 billion for FY 2026-2027. The current allocation will support four ongoing projects aimed at ecological restoration, green skills development, urban climate resilience, and strengthening institutional capacity for climate action, according to a statement issued by the ministry .

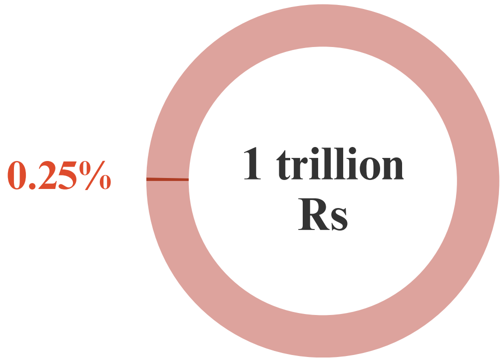
- Rs.2.335bn or 94% of the allocated sum, goes to the Up-scaling of Green Pakistan Programme (UGPP).
- Rs.51.6 million or 2.08% goes to the Green Skills for Sustainable Development.
- Rs.50 million or 2.02% goes to the National Urban Strategy for Urban Flooding, Droughts and Climate Disasters, done with UNFCCC Adaptation Fund and UN-Habitat Support.
- An additional Rs.40.66 million or 1.64 % has been allocated for strengthening the ministry's technical capacity in areas including climate finance, marine biodiversity, water, sanitation and hazardous waste management.
- Water quality monitoring and the Pakistan Biosafety Clearing House, these two projects are concluding on June 30, their completion also accounts for the depletion in allocation.

PSDP : Public Sector Development Programme

Dawn, 2026

Discussion

Total federal PSDP is Rs.1 trillion; climate ministry gets Rs.2.478 billion of that, meaning climate gets 0.25% of the federal development budget. This percentage continues to decrease over the recent years.



Budget Decline trend:

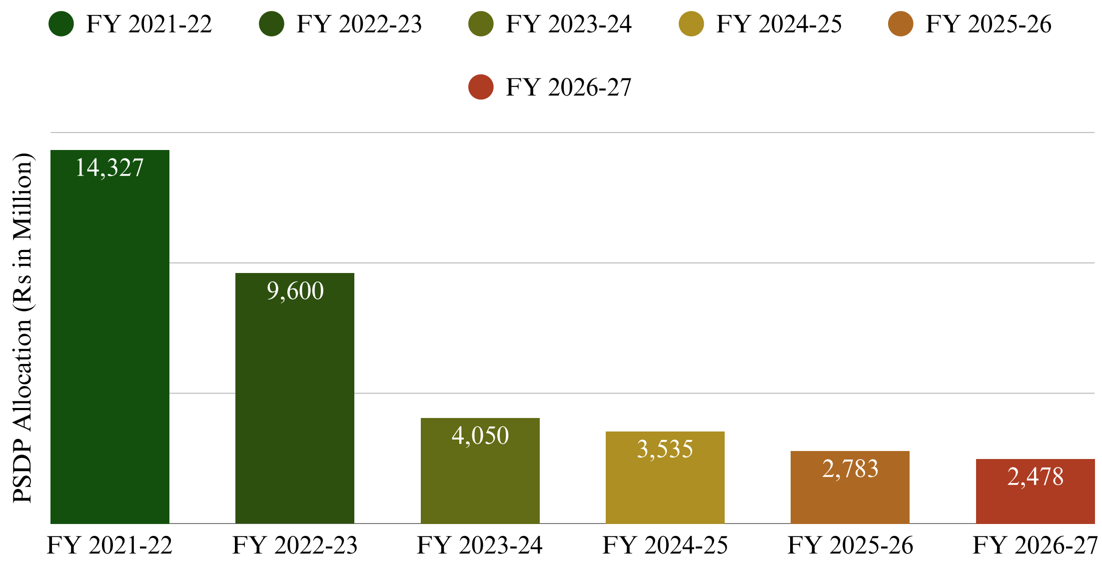


Figure 3: Five-Year PSDP Climate Budget Trend (FY2021-22 to FY2026-27)

Note: Figures represent PSDP allocation/revised allocation as cited, not actual expenditure

The peak was FY 2021-22 at Rs. 14,327 million, the year when massive flooding hit and the 10-Billion Tree Tsunami was in full swing. The current year saw an **83% decline in just five years.**
Critics argue the annual decline is disproportionate to accelerating climate impacts.
The World Bank's 2022 Country Climate and Development Report estimated that Pakistan needs $348 billion for adaptation and mitigation between 2023 and 2030. Separately Pakistan's own NDC 3.0 submission to the UNFCCC estimates "Pakistan will need $565.7 billion in investment to achieve its NDC 3.0 climate commitments by 2035."(Pakistan NDC 3.0, 2025),
This decrease in trend is due to key reasons: First is crushing debts. Over half of the revenue goes in debt servicing thus services like climate protection are the first to be squeezed out. Second is "Reactive philosophy". Data shows disaster-management allocations rose sharply, while climate prevention spending continued to fall. Third is the under-utilization of the budget itself. According to Planning Commission of Pakistan, the previous years PSDP budget was only utilized by 50%.

PSDP allocation FY 21-22
PSDP allocation FY 22-23
PSDP allocation FY 23-24
PSDP allocation FY 24-25
PSDP allocation FY 25-26
Pakistan's NDC 3.0

Fourth, fragmented federal-provincial coordination continues to weaken climate implementation. While the federal ministry can set national priorities, many adaptation-relevant sectors fall within provincial mandates, making intergovernmental coordination essential for delivery.

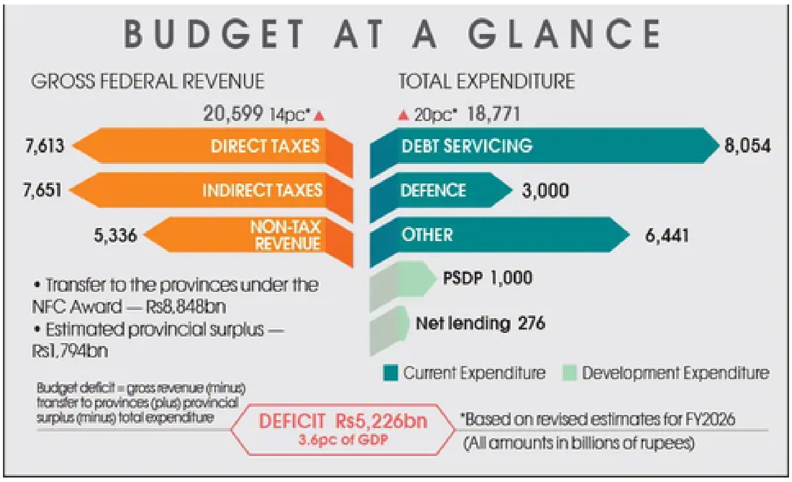
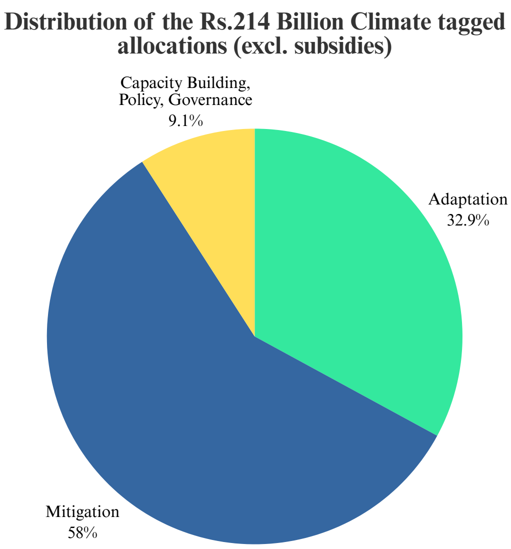


Figure 4: Budget at a glance. (Dawn News, 2026)

The Broad Picture of Climate Budgeting:

There are two main funding sources: first, the climate ministry's PSDP allocation, which constitutes 0.25% of the total 1 trillion budget; second, the revenue generated from climate-linked taxes and levies.
In the budget 26-27, Pakistan expects to generate **Rs.2.026 trillion** through the Petroleum Levy, Gas Development Surcharge, the new Climate Support Levy, the EV Adoption Levy, and oil and gas royalties. However, only Rs. 214 billion, which is a direct climate-tagged allocation excluding subsidies, makes its way into climate-tagged spending. So, Rs1.812 trillion enters the general treasury/general revenue pool.

"For every Rs100 collected through climate and green-linked fiscal measures, only around Rs10.6 is allocated toward climate-tagged action, and the remaining Rs89.4 enters the general treasury." (SDPI, 2025)



The climate tagged allocation of Rs. 214 billion (excl.subsidies) break down into Rs. 70 bn for adaptation, Rs. 124.1 bn for mitigation and Rs. 19.5 bn in capacity building support and governance.
Disaster allocations rose 132% from Rs.50.2bn in FY2025-26 to Rs.116.2bn in FY2026-27 (see Annex A, Table A1) while the allocations for adaptation, decreased 17% from the previous year, highlighting the "reactive philosophy." SDPI additionally identifies Rs. 476 bn are also counted in climate-responsive subsidies, which makes the broader fiscal climate budget 690 billion. (See Annex A, Table A2)

Consortium for Development Policy Research

Climate Resilience Deficit SDPI

Climate Revenue and Expenditure Alignment

One of the most significant findings emerging from the budget analysis is the apparent disconnect between climate-related revenue generation and climate-related expenditure. While climate-linked revenue streams continue to expand, corresponding public investment in climate resilience and adaptation has not increased at the same pace. This raises important policy questions regarding expenditure prioritization, fiscal transparency, and the extent to which climate-generated revenues are being reinvested into climate action. Further examination of this relationship is necessary to assess whether current fiscal practices support Pakistan's long-term climate objectives. The table below illustrates how every Rs. 100 of climate-linked tax revenue is distributed.

Allocation	Share of every Rs100 collected
Goes to climate action	Rs 10.6
Goes to general treasury	Rs 89.4

Administrative Lens

Given this budget, can Pakistan's institutions actually deliver climate resilience?

NDMA Chairman Inam Haider Malik has warned about intense climate conditions and extreme weather patterns, particularly in light of heightened El Niño-related risks and increasingly erratic rainfall patterns. The situation and the budget are in direct tension. The coordination gaps between the federal and provincial bodies also raise concerns; without proper coordination and resources to support it, the addition of institutional layers would not solve the problem but would worsen it over time.

Senator Sherry Rehman, chairing the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, called the cuts “shocking” and questioned the rationale for a proposed new Climate Authority given existing funding constraints.

Strategies are not executed fully when there are fewer resources. The National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (2025-2030) commits to modernized early-warning systems and anticipatory action mechanisms, but the budget trends raise questions about whether implementation will keep pace with the strategy's stated ambitions.

There is also a gap between generated revenue and expenditure. Dr Abid Suleri, a member of Pakistan’s National Economic Advisory Council, said the money collected under the climate levy should be spent to address climate change instead of making it a part of a wider budget pool. (Abbas, 2026).

Moreover, in the budget, Adaptation and Mitigation have not been given attention, but investment in disaster response continues to dominate. Given the country’s repeated experience of climate shocks, this strategy is questioned as well.

How will this budget support the already affected nation, struggling to cope with the previous impacts?

According to former Climate Change Minister Malik Amin Aslam, two international reports from the World Bank and the University of Chicago indicate that Pakistan could account for one-third of global heat stress deaths, with nine cities projected to increase critical mortality thresholds. (Dawn, 2026; Climate Impact Lab, 2026)

The 2022 floods displaced 8 million people and directly affected 30 million.
The 2025 monsoon displaced a further 3.5 million, with 1.6 million remaining at flood risk in Sindh alone.
As of early 2026, 7.5 million people faced acute food insecurity, including 1.25 million in emergency-level conditions.
Buner and Shangla districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been specifically identified as facing acute risk from recurring flash floods and landslides, compounded by high poverty rates and limited previous adaptation investment. The 2022 floods caused over $1.5 billion in losses in KP alone.
Climate disasters caused approximately Rs822 billion in economic losses in 2025 alone, a figure the Economic Survey 2025-26 calls a macroeconomic risk

After every Flood season, communities are left with increased vulnerability, if repair is not done and resilience is not built.

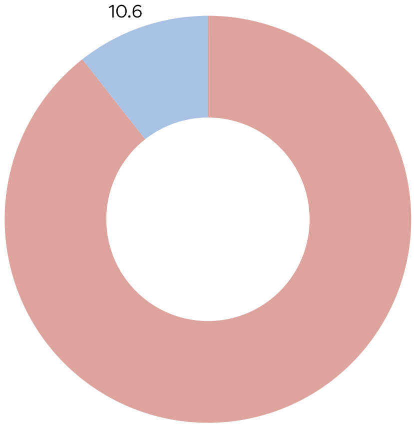
The Rs.50 million National Urban Strategy is the only budget line addressing urban flooding. The Rs.51.6 million green skills programme is the only line investing in communities' long-term economic resilience, which is far less than the Rs. 822 bn loss in previous climate disasters.

Each Pakistani contributes Rs.8,190 annually through climate-linked taxes. Only Rs.890 per person reaches Climate Spending. (SDPI, 2026)

UN OCHA Pakistan 2025 Monsoon Floods.
Impact of Rising Temperatures
Climate Resilience Deficit SDPI
World Food Programme 2025

International Financing and Governance

Domestic Revenue vs. Active Climate Spending



Global Diplomacy vs. Global Budget Cuts

Pakistan, as Chair of the G77+China in 2022, led 134 developing nations in negotiations that secured the historic establishment of the Loss & Damage Fund at COP27, yet its FY2026-27 climate budget continues a five-year decline, falling to Rs. 2,478 million from Rs. 3,535 million in FY2024-25, creating a policy contradiction that weakens Pakistan's global climate stance.

Credibility & Transparency Gap

For every Rs. 100 collected in green taxes, Rs. 89.4 goes to the general treasury and only Rs. 10.6 goes to climate action. The gap between climate-linked revenue collection and climate-tagged expenditure raises transparency and earmarking concerns

International Aid Risks & Regional Comparisons

This transparency gap risks international credibility and future foreign aid while peers like Bangladesh have proposed a Taka 2,144 crore (~Rs 60 bn / ~$175 million) allocation for its Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for FY2025-26 (previous year comparison)

Pakistan's Climate Journey.

Climate Finance in Pakistan

Bangladesh Environment Budget

Intergenerational Equity & Youth Concerns

The Green Skills Deficit & Job Potential

With around two-thirds of Pakistan's population under 30, the consequences of current underinvestment fall heavily on younger generations. While the renewable energy sector could create significant green employment opportunities by 2030, the domestic Green Skills for Sustainable Development programme receives only Rs51.6 million, representing 2.08% of the ministry's total allocation. Such limited support may constrain the scale and continuity of youth climate participation, green skills programming, and locally led climate innovation.

Demographic Stresses & Education

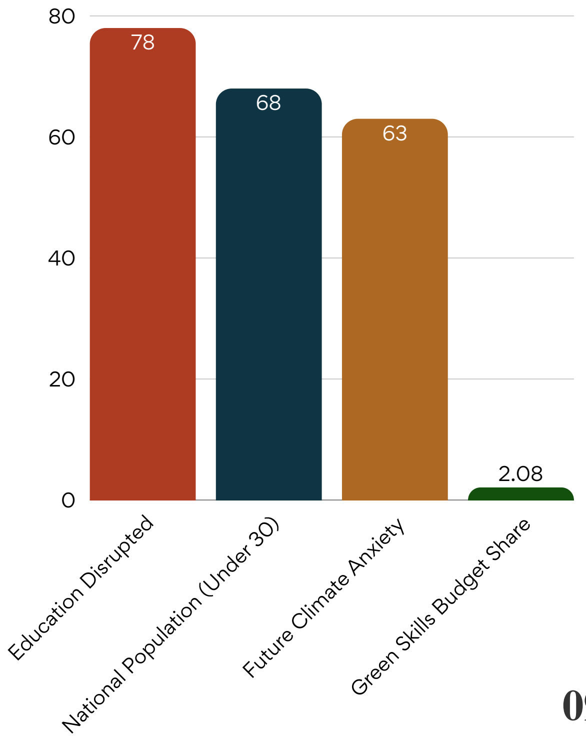
Educational Disruption (78%)

A UNICEF tracking survey revealed that a massive 78% of young Pakistani respondents report their schooling has been directly disrupted by climate disasters, as families struggle to afford education amidst recurring floods and heatwaves.

Future Climate Anxiety (63%)

Around two-thirds of Pakistan's population is under 30; youth explicitly report severe anxiety regarding future climate impacts, recognizing that continuous underinvestment in regional resilience threatens their long-term displacement.

Youth Vulnerability Indices vs. Sector Allocation (%)



Note: Indicators are shown for comparative scale and are not directly equivalent variables

UNICEF Youth Perspectives on Climate Change Pakistan.

Skilling Young Entrepreneurs

UNDP Pakistan's Youth

ClimateWatch Analysis

The **FY2026-27** federal climate budget reflects three broader trends within Pakistan's climate governance landscape.

First, the allocation pattern suggests a continued emphasis on disaster response and large-scale infrastructure projects rather than **preventive adaptation** and **resilience-building measures**. While disaster preparedness remains essential, long-term climate resilience requires sustained investment in adaptation planning, local capacity development, and vulnerability reduction.

Second, the findings indicate a growing disconnect between **climate-related revenue generation and climate-related expenditure**. As climate-linked revenues increase, questions emerge regarding the mechanisms through which these resources are allocated and whether current spending patterns adequately support national climate objectives.

Third, the budget highlights ongoing challenges related to **intergenerational climate governance**. Given Pakistan's demographic profile and long-term climate risks, investments in climate education, green skills development, and youth participation mechanisms remain important components of a comprehensive climate strategy. Taken together, these trends suggest the need for a more integrated approach to climate budgeting that aligns fiscal planning, resilience objectives, and long-term development priorities.

ClimateWatch Position

ClimateWatch acknowledges that **climate resilience** is not solely an environmental challenge but a **governance,** development, and **intergenerational equity** challenge.

We believe that effective climate action requires:

- Evidence-based policymaking grounded in local realities.
- Meaningful participation of youth and affected communities in climate decision-making.
- Transparent and accountable climate finance systems.
- Long-term investment in resilience, adaptation, and climate capacity-building.
- Alignment between national climate commitments and public expenditure priorities.

ClimateWatch backs policies that strengthen **climate resilience** while ensuring that vulnerable and marginalized communities are meaningfully included in policy development and implementation processes.

Strategic Recommendations

01 Medium-Term Scaling

The climate ministry's development allocation must rise gradually over the medium term to match accelerating systemic risks rather than continuously shrink.

02 Shielding Proactive Funds

Adaptation, early warning systems, and localized resilience budgets must be legally protected from diversion into short-term reactive cleanup or disaster response.

03 Formalizing Coordination

Inter-agency communication lines between the climate ministry, NDMA, provincial governments (PDMAs), and key sectoral departments like WAPDA must be formalized.

04 Transparent Public Ledger

All climate-tagged spending and collected green revenues must be published in a transparent, easily accessible format to enable accountability audits.

Conclusion

The allocated budget reduction is deeply disproportionate to accelerating climate impacts, threatening Pakistan's global financing credibility and post-disaster readiness under El Niño warnings. Moreover, allocations to adaptation and mitigation should be increased, and climate-linked revenues should be spent on climate resilience. Institutional coordination and resource mobilization can help Pakistan greatly in Climate Finance. Moving forward, the solution lies not only in increasing the total climate allocation but also in shifting expenditure toward proactive prevention, localized adaptation, transparent climate finance, and institutional capacity capable of reducing long-term climate risks.

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ANNEX A: Budget Data Sources & Verification

Table A1: Gender, Climate and Disaster Expenditure Classification

Source: Budget in Brief FY2026-27, Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan

TABLE - 18
GENDER, CLIMATE AND DISASTER

(Rs in Million)

Classification	Budget 2023-24	Budget 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27
Gender				
Equality & Quality of Education	24,353	27,246	22,929	60,271
Health & Well-being	554	638	15,774	21,481
Government & Data Systems	577	621	662	513,272
Employment & Economic Opportunity	120,983	140,634	154,587	693,203
Safety & Security	11,374	12,820	13,353	869,979
Agency, Political Participation & Meaningful Engagement	4,676	4,754	4,961	4,350
***Climate**				
Adaptation	55,047	46,625	85,435	70,462
Mitigation	133,122	212,861	603,000	124,067
Supporting Areas	18,347	18,867	28,331	19,490
Disaster				
Preparedness	37,278	47,434	33,163	42,844
Response	11,394	12,999	15,876	32,774
Recovery & Rehabilitation	1,541	444	1,142	21,485
Reconstruction	-	-	-	19,135

***Climate data is exclusive of subsidies. For Subsidies, detail is available at Table-19.**

This table presents federal budget allocations disaggregated by gender, climate, and disaster classifications across four fiscal years (FY2023-24 to FY2026-27), in Rs. Million.

The Disaster sub-head comprises four components: Preparedness, Response, Recovery & Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction. Summing these four lines yields a FY2025-26 disaster total of Rs. 50,181 million and a FY2026-27 total of Rs. 116,238 million, a 131.6% increase, consistent with the 132% figure cited by SDPI. Climate data in this table is exclusive of subsidies; green-tagged subsidies are reported separately in Table 19 of the same document (see Table A2 below).

ANNEX A: Budget Data Sources & Verification

Table A2: Green Component in Subsidies (Table 19)

Source: Budget in Brief FY2026-27, Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan

TABLE - 19
GREEN COMPONENT IN SUBSIDIES

(Rs in Million)

FY2026-27			
Sector	**Classification**	**Category***	**Green Component**
Energy	Mitigation	A	423,000
Food	Adaptation	B	19,000
Industries	Mitigation	A	8,000
Transport	Mitigation	A	5,000
Agriculture	Adaptation	B	21,000
		Total:	**476,000**

*** Categories:**

A. Directly Favorable
B. Indirectly Favorable
C. Neutral or not assessed
D. Mixed
E. Potentially unfavorable

This table identifies Rs. 476,000 million (Rs. 476 bn) in climate-responsive subsidies across five sectors , energy, food, industries, transport, and agriculture , classified as either Category A (Directly Favorable) or Category B (Indirectly Favorable) to climate outcomes. Combined with the Rs. 214 bn climate-tagged allocation (excl. subsidies), this constitutes the broader Rs. 690 bn fiscal climate envelope referenced in the report.

About
ClimateWatch

ClimateWatch is a youth-led climate think-tank operating as a programmatic office of the **Northern Citizen 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 flood plains of Sindh, are represented in climate policy decisions at every level, from local government to international negotiations.

Our Work

International Climate Policy (ICP)

The ICP Division tracks and analyzes Pakistan's engagement with global climate frameworks, including the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement, and associated finance mechanisms. ClimateWatch has represented civil society at COP26, COP27, COP28, and SB64 (Bonn, 2026).

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

ClimateWatch's Education for Sustainable Development Division operates under the framework of UNESCO's ESD 2030 agenda, translating global sustainability goals into locally grounded learning initiatives. The Division's flagship project, the **Glacier School,** brings climate and earth science education directly to mountain communities in Gilgit-Baltistan, providing young people with the knowledge and skills to understand and respond to the glacier dynamics and GLOF risks shaping their environment.

Research & Development (R&D)

The R&D Division produces primary research on Pakistan's climate vulnerability, fiscal policy, and adaptation gaps. This brief is a product of the ICP and R&D Divisions working jointly.

This Report

This policy brief was produced by **ClimateWatch's** International Climate Policy and Research & Development Division in June 2026.

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