



Scaling up of The Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Risk Reduction in Northern Pakistan (GLOF-II Project)

Project Brief

Global Warming bears tremendous consequences on the glaciers of Northern Pakistan, leading to extensive glacial melts which result in **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)**, making human lives and habitations highly susceptible to the disastrous impacts of Climate Change. To address the threats posed by Climate Change in the form of climate-induced disasters such as GLOFs, the Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, in partnership with UNDP Pakistan is implementing the **Scaling up of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Risk Reduction (GLOF-II) Project** supported by the Green Climate Fund to enhance climate-resilience of the communities in twenty-four (24) valleys of ten (10) districts of Gilgit Baltistan (GB), and eight (08) districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The Project's multi-layered

approach to cementing climate resilience entails strengthening national and sub-national institutional capacities for climate responsive planning and development; and scaling up of community based Early Warning System(s) and long term climate-adaptation measures through capacity enhancement trainings to reduce GLOF risks, directly benefitting 696,342 people (348,171 men and 348,171 women).

Progress till date:

The Project's progress to date includes the procurement of 292 technologically advanced Early Warning Systems (including Automatic Rain Gauge, Automatic Weather Station (AWS) High Altitude (HA), Automatic Weather Station (AWS) Medium / Low Altitude (M – LA), Lake & River Water Depth Gauge, Water Discharge Gauge, Warning Posts) in the project valleys. Out of these systems, 15 have been installed in Ghulkin and Shisper (GB) and the construction of 143 base-platforms for the installation of the EWS has been completed. The Project has rehabilitated 172 irrigation schemes against a target of 240 (71% complete), while 230 small-scale infrastructures (gabion walls) have been constructed against a target of 250 (92% complete). 692 Hectare (Ha) of Slope Stabilization against a target of 700 Ha (99% complete) has been rolled out. For enhanced and sustainable climate action, 24 Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Committees have been formed (100% complete) in the Project valleys, along with community based Hazard Watch Groups in each valley, while the construction of 07 CBDRM Centres is complete against a target of 25 (28% complete). 02 Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans (CCAAP) for KP and GB have been developed, and 684 community sensitization sessions (CCAAP trainings, mock-drills, stakeholders communication and coordination workshops, GLOFs awareness sessions, and trainings on kitchen gardening) have been rolled out. Alongside the community awareness sessions, 07 community reciprocal visits have been executed. The Project continues to support the demonstration and documentation of indigenous best practices (Ice-Stupa formation, Glacier Grafting, Avalanche Harvesting), while IEC, advocacy, and outreach material for Climate-Change and GLOF awareness has been developed over the course of the

Quick Facts:

Duration: July 2017 –Jan 2025

Implementing partners: Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MOCC&EC) and UNDP

Funding partner: Green Climate Fund

Location: Gilgit Baltistan & Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Total budget: USD 36.96 Million (GCF) and PKR 50 million co-financing from Gov. of Gilgit Baltistan

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Project period. The Project's infrastructural and EWS interventions have benefitted 157,259 individuals (80,727 women, 76,532 men), with 51% of women having benefitted from the actions.

Financial progress:

The project has delivered **USD 24,966,703** against the Project's overall budget of USD 36,960,000 (67% of total budget). Co-financing of **USD 126,014** has also been materialized by the Government of Gilgit Baltistan (GB).

Planned Actions for 2024:

The Project has a planned expenditure of USD 12 million in 2024, against which the Project will be completing the following key activities: (a) construction of small-scale infrastructures such as gabion walls and check dams, (b) the repair and rehabilitation of irrigation channels, (c) slope-stabilization through bio-engineering and water-shed management, (d) construction of Community Based Disaster Risk Management Centers and Safe Havens, and (d) roll-out of GLOF awareness trainings and mock-drills for disaster preparedness for community members, and (e) trainings on livelihood for women's economic empowerment. Additionally, the Project will also support the construction of access routes to the valleys, and for the accessibility of the Hazard Watch Groups for GLOF monitoring. Project will also be designing and implementing the exit strategy in coordination with its implementing partners for project sustainability.

Way forward:

Following the Project's Exit Strategy, the Project will be concluded by 11th January 2025, by which time all targets pertaining to the Project's interventions would be met, and the communities will be fully capacitated to respond to GLOF events through the installed Early Warning System(s) and disaster response mechanisms. The operation and maintenance of the installed Early Warning Systems shall be handed over to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), while all other assets shall appropriately be handed over to the relevant department(s). The Project's strategy to strengthen community resilience by instilling ownership and a strong sense of responsibility through Community Based Disaster Risk Management Committees and Hazard Watch Groups would further solidify the Project's impact, ensuring inclusive and sustainable climate action.