



REPORT ON INFORMATION ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES

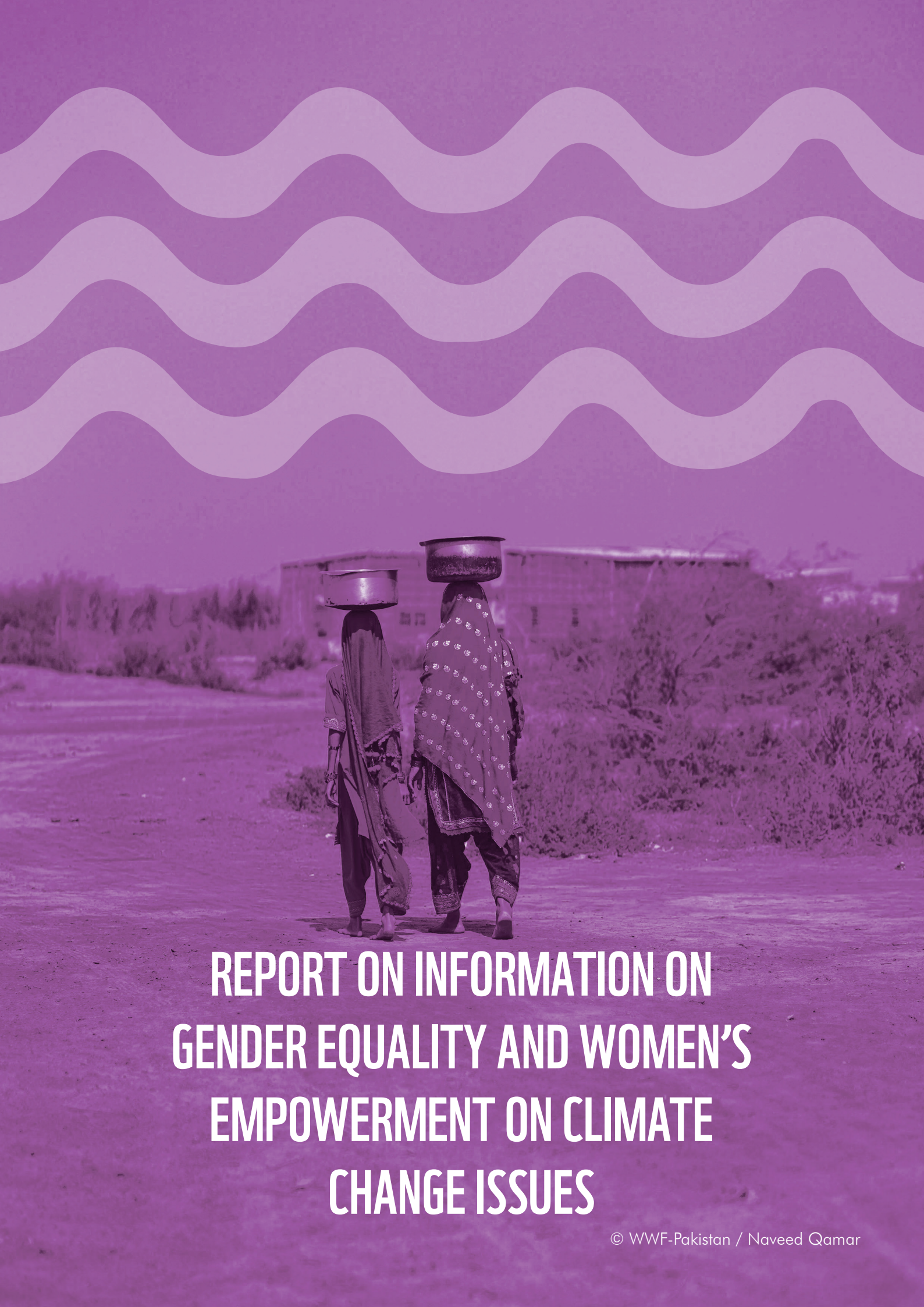


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The image is a full-page background photograph with a purple color overlay. It depicts two women from behind, walking away on a dirt path. They are carrying large metal pots balanced on their heads. The woman on the right is wearing a patterned shawl, while the one on the left is in a dark dress. In the background, there are some buildings and trees. The top of the image features a decorative wavy pattern in a lighter shade of purple.

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ABOUT WWF-PAKISTAN

The World Wide Fund for Nature - Pakistan (WWF-Pakistan) is one of the largest nature conservation organization, working in Pakistan since 1970 with the vision to work towards the protection of the natural resources and sustainable resource use regime across the entire ecosystem. WWF-Pakistan is part of the global WWF Network, which has a presence in over 100 countries and thus has access to an enormous pool of environmental expertise and knowledge. With its Head Office in Lahore, 6 Regional Offices, and more than 30 project site offices across Pakistan, WWF-Pakistan is working on environmental conservation with more than 1000 employees spread throughout the country.

Since its inception in 1970, WWF-Pakistan has been involved in creating awareness about environmental issues in six major areas – which include freshwater, wildlife, oceans, forests, climate and energy, and foods and markets – amongst individuals and groups from all social tiers associated with each practice. The organization continuously strives to establish an effective communication pathway in the social hierarchy by gauging each stakeholder's existing grasp on the subject, devising appropriate content for the interested parties, and expressing it in the most comprehensible manner.

MISSION STATEMENT

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- Conserving the world's biological diversity;
- Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable; and,
- Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Third National Communication (TNC) of Pakistan, building upon its predecessor from 2019, reflects the country's commitment to meeting UNFCCC requirements outlined in Articles 4.1 and 12.

WWF-Pakistan is the lead for the Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment on Climate Change Issues under the TNC. Aligned with the UNFCCC's Gender Action Plan, the TWG focuses on integrating gender considerations into climate policies and actions, with a particular emphasis on capacity building and technology transfer. Recognizing Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change, especially for women and marginalized communities, the current study aims to comprehensively understand the on-the-ground issues and interventions.

Through a comprehensive desk review, and surveys in hard-to-reach climate-impacted communities across the country, a diverse range of issues have been identified and reported. A representative sample shows a plethora of climate change issues such as floods, wildfires, urban flooding, heatwaves, smog, sea level rise, intrusion, drought, water scarcity, glacial lake outburst flooding, and riverine flooding.

Despite facing significant challenges, including inadequate resources and limited support, there exists a palpable willingness among community members, especially women, to engage in climate action and leadership roles. The study highlights the opportunities for the enhancement of climate action (mitigation and adaptation) through capacity building and empowering women and marginalized communities to take up leadership roles.

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INTRODUCTION

The Third National Communication (TNC) is set to build upon the foundation laid by Pakistan's Second National Communication in 2019, as part of the country's commitment to fulfill requirements under Articles 4.1 and 12 of the UNFCCC. This forthcoming communication not only details Pakistan's implementation of the Convention but also underscores critical issues, constraints, and capacity requirements for both climate mitigation and adaptation. Within this, WWF-Pakistan assumes a pivotal role as the lead for the Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment on Climate Change Issues under the TNC.

This TWG aligns with the goals of the UNFCCC, specifically its Gender Action Plan under Decision 23/CP.18 at COP 18 in 2012, which emphasizes the need to integrate gender considerations in climate policies and actions (e.g. the National Adaptation Plan) and highlights the importance of gender-responsive capacity building, and knowledge/technology transfer. Given Pakistan's susceptibility to climate change effects, the impacts are notably severe for women and marginalized communities, reflecting pre-existing social, economic, and cultural vulnerabilities¹. Therefore, the current study not only provides an overview of the disproportionate impacts on these groups but also highlights the role of women as change agents in climate action, encompassing both mitigation and adaptation efforts.

The anticipated outcome was to collect information on climate change impacts on women and marginalized communities:

(i) Collection of information: Data on the impacts of climate change on women and marginalized communities, and current interventions in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation through a gendered lens.

(ii) Need Assessment: Identification of gaps, challenges, and needs to ensure impactful involvement of women in climate action.

(iii) Way Forward: Creation of a roadmap to ensure greater involvement of women in climate action (policy & programmatic Interventions).

To comprehensively understand the issues and interventions being undertaken on the ground, WWF-Pakistan conducted surveys in hard-to-reach climate-impacted communities across Pakistan, through WWF-Pakistan's network offices.

METHODOLOGY

Secondary Data Collection:

Literature Review:

A comprehensive desk review was undertaken, encompassing all existing climate and gender-related policies, plans, and interventions at the national level. The purpose of the review was to identify gender responsiveness at the country level, in addition to the gaps and challenges in the implementation of the same.

Primary Data Collection:

To comprehensively understand the climate-related issues and climate change mitigation & adaptation interventions being undertaken on the ground, surveys were conducted in climate-impacted communities. A representative sample of 30 to 45 women per village/district was collected, based on convenient sampling. WWF-Pakistan's network of regional/field offices across the country supported the arrangement and engagement with hard-to-reach local communities. Table 1 depicts the sites identified and selected for the surveys.

¹ Abbasi et al. (2019)

TABLE 1: SITES OF CLIMATE VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES FOR SURVEYS

Sites	Climate Change Issue Identified through Literature & WWF-Pakistan Field Office's Information
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Bagnotar, Chatranath, Madyan, Swat Valley	Flood and Wildfires
Punjab: Taunsa, Muridke, Tajpura, Islamabad Gaony	Flood, Urban Flooding, Heatwave, & Smog
Sindh: Mero Dablo, Ketu Bunder, Babo Dablo, Islamkot, Vee Bheel, Vee Surani, Aslari, Nagarparkar, Narbo Rani, Lembo	Flood, Sea Level Rise, and Intrusion
Balochistan: Lasbella	Drought, Water Scarcity
Gilgit Baltistan: Hasanabad and Passu, Hunza	Glacial Lake Outburst Flooding, Riverine Flooding

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

A total of 300 women from climate-vulnerable communities across Pakistan were surveyed.

Figure 1 illustrates the breakdown of survey participants based on their geographical location.

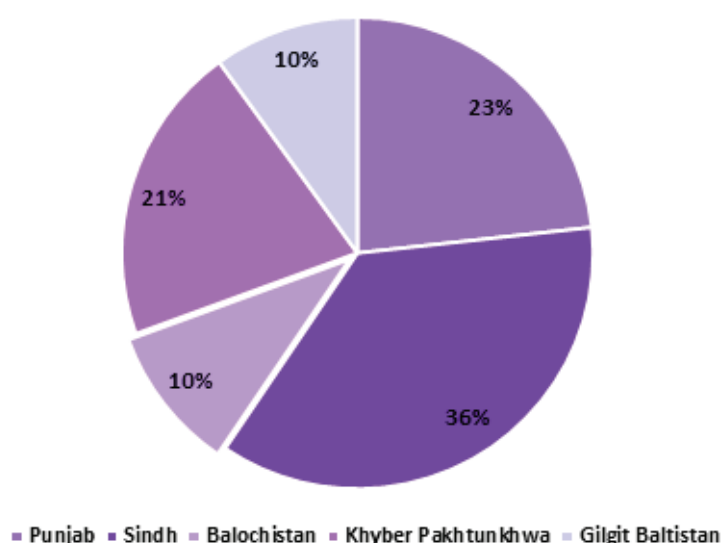


Figure 1: Provincial Breakdown of Survey Participants

The age distribution of the survey participants is depicted in Figure 2, showcasing a diverse demographic representation. Among the respondents, the largest segment comprises those aged between 21 to 40 years old, making up approximately 60% of the surveyed population. These segments also represent the economically active age groups.

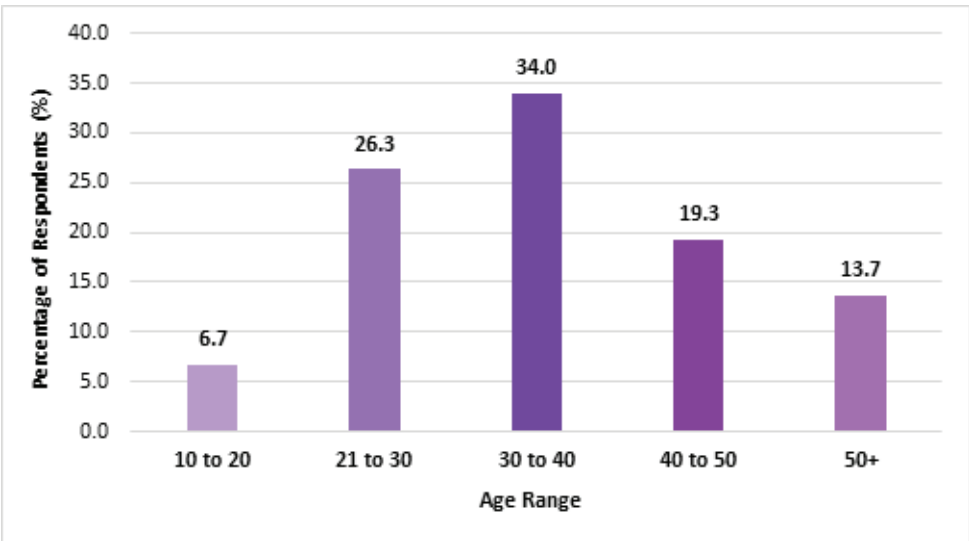


Figure 2: Age-wise breakdown of Survey Participants

In terms of statistics of 'head of household', Figure 3 highlights that 68.8% of participants come from "male-headed" households, contrasting with 31.2% from "female-headed" households. Concurrently, 81.9% of respondents are reported as "married".

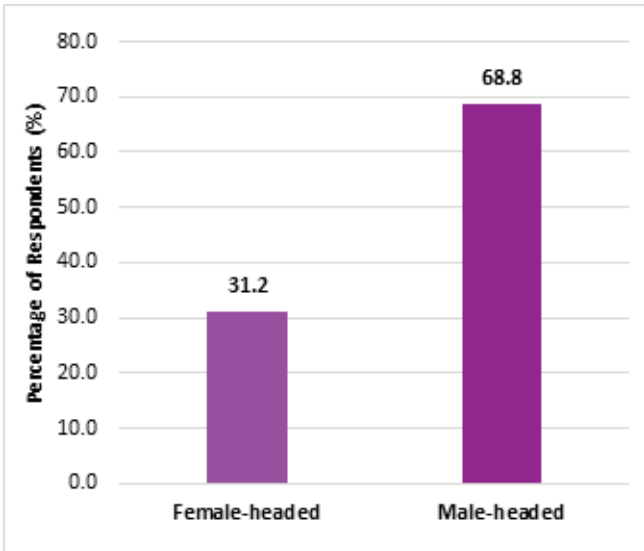


Figure 3: Percentage of Female vs Male-headed Families

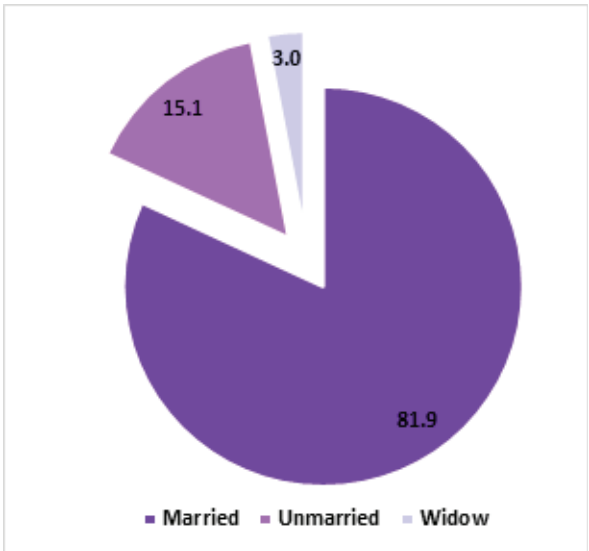


Figure 4: Marital Status of Surveyed Participants

Notably, approximately 29.4% report 6 to 7 members, while 27% have families of 4 to 5 members. Additionally, 23.4% indicate family sizes of 8 to 10, and 8.7% belong to families with 10 or more members. Smaller families of 2 to 3 members constitute 11.4% of the surveyed population (see, Figure 5).

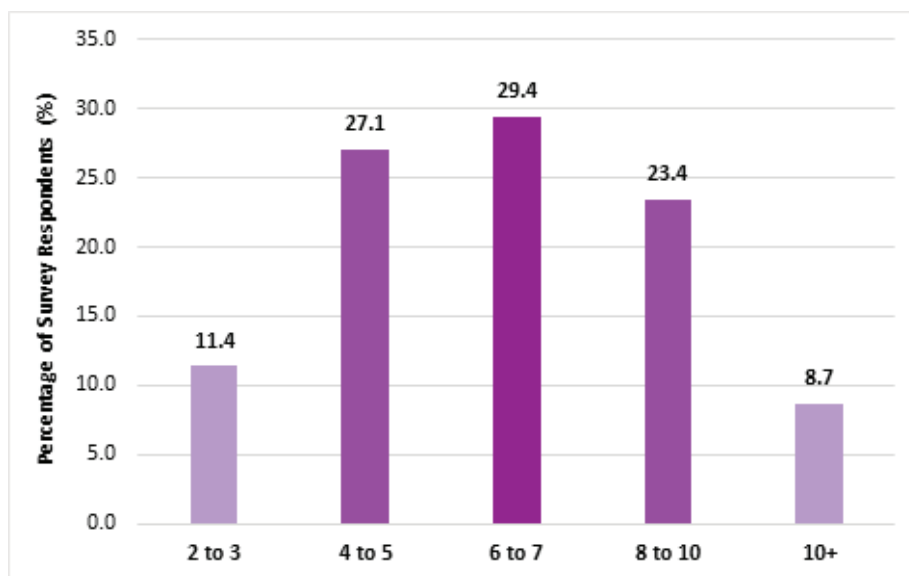


Figure 5: Family Size of Survey Respondents

Figure 6 depicting housing types among survey respondents illustrates a significant majority residing in less permanent housing structures “Kutchra” houses, constituting 69.6%. Comparatively, 29.7% of participants reported living in more durable “Pucca” houses. However, within this bracket, a substantial number of the participants described the state of their houses as “not safe”; e.g. cracks post-flood.

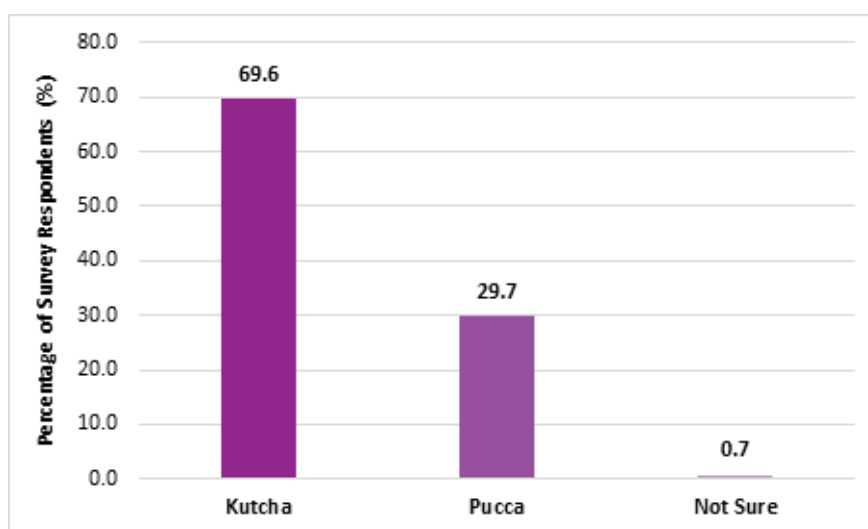


Figure 6: Housing Types Among Survey Respondents

The house ownership among survey respondents, as depicted in Figure 7, reveals that 75.8% own their homes, 22.2% are renters, and 2% have partial ownership. It is noteworthy that 68.8% of the households are headed by males (Figure 3), highlighting that ownership here doesn’t necessarily imply female ownership.

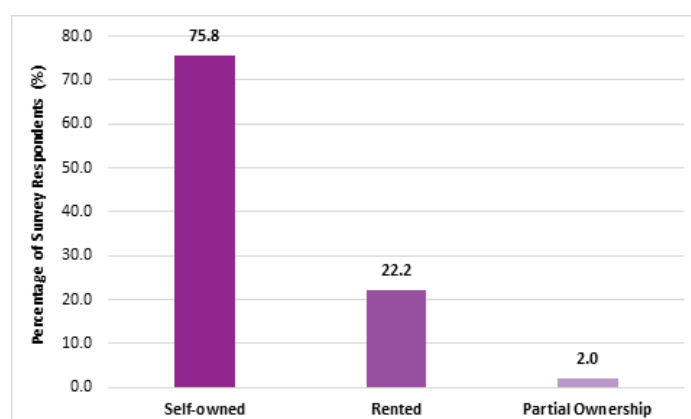


Figure 7: Ownership of the House of Survey Respondents

The educational profile of survey respondents depicted in Figure 8 denotes that a substantial 66.6% of the respondents did not receive a formal education. This high percentage was enhanced by the absence of schools for girls within the proximity of communities surveyed in areas of Sindh and Swat Valley. Within the remaining surveyed population, 9.7% attended middle school, while 8% and 4.3% pursued secondary and higher secondary, respectively. Additionally, 7% pursued higher education, and a mere 1.7% attained a Master's degree. 2.7% of the survey participants reported only completing primary level and/or informal forms of education such as religious learning, and old-age education.

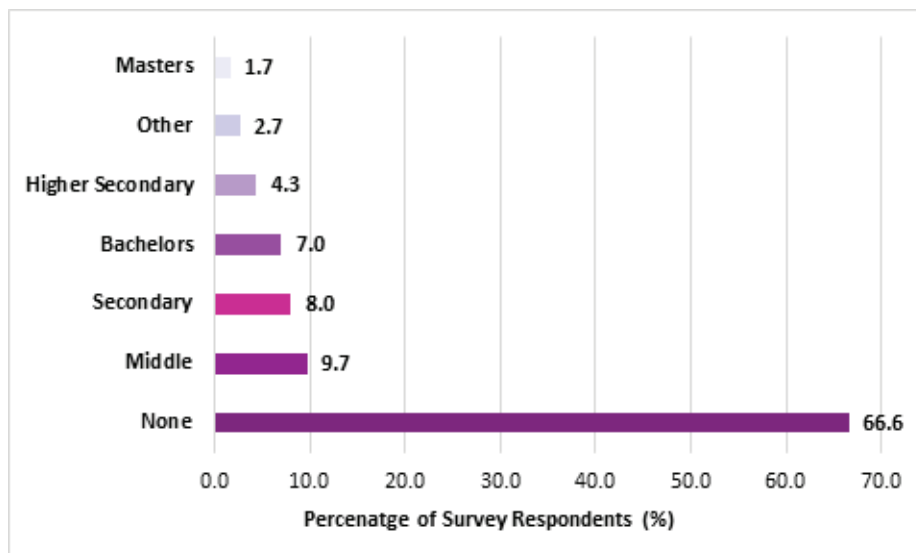


Figure 8: Level of Education of Survey Respondents

The “occupation” of survey respondents as outlined in Figure 9, indicates that 40.7% are not engaged in work. A significant 14.7% are farmers, involved in activities such as rearing livestock, working on the fields (e.g. apple, cherry, or potato farming), fish farming, and farm-linked restaurant management. Another 21% fall under the “others” category, engaging in various occupations such as sewing, tailoring, handicrafts (especially Ralli-making in Sindh), tourism, or lady health workers/nurses. Additionally, 6.3% and 5.3% of respondents work as laborers and community workers, respectively, reflecting the diverse range of occupations within the surveyed population.

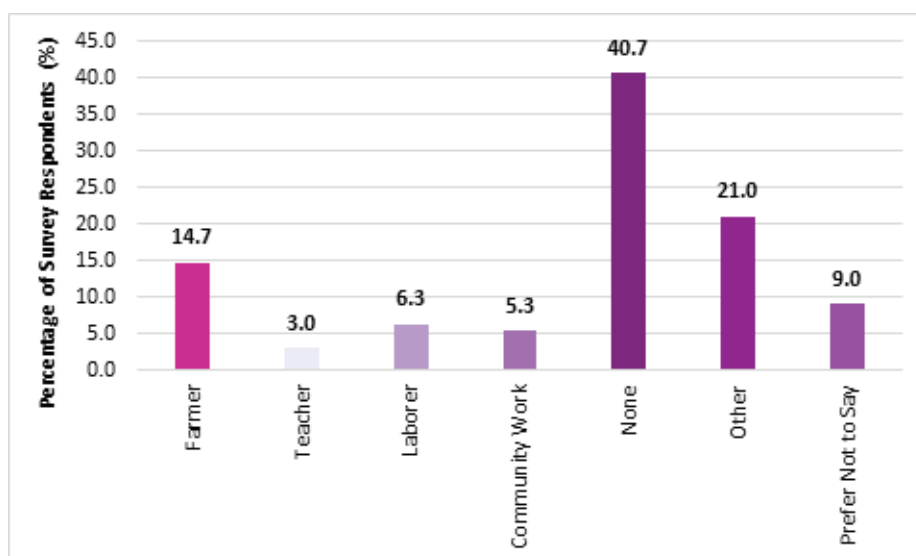


Figure 9: Occupation of the Survey Respondents



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IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WOMEN AND MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

Studies have shown that changing rainfall patterns, increased temperature, and extreme weather events such as floods and droughts have impacted agricultural activities, resulting in reduced crop yields, and damage to livestock that not only undermine rural livelihoods but also contribute to food insecurity and poverty in the country^{2 3}.

(i) Women, who play a crucial role in agricultural production⁴, are particularly affected, as they often lack access to resources (human, social, financial, technical, and natural)^{5 6 7}.

(ii) Increasing scarcity of water as a result of erratic rainfall patterns and melting glaciers, leads to increased workloads for women as they are predominantly the primary water managers in households and communities, who have to travel longer distances to fetch water, often facing challenges of accessing clean and safe water sources. Moreover, inadequate water availability affects sanitation and hygiene practices⁸.

(iii) Besides the impact of loss of livelihoods, as mentioned previously, climate change poses numerous health-related challenges. Rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns contribute to the spread of waterborne diseases, such as diarrhea and cholera, disproportionately affecting marginalized communities lacking access to clean water and sanitation facilities^{9 10}. Additionally, extreme heat events pose significant health risks, especially for vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, children, and the elderly^{11 12}.

(iv) Gender-based violence, exacerbated during times of environmental stress. Women, in particular, encounter gender-specific barriers, including unequal power relations¹³, limited decision-making authority and restricted mobility, which hinder their ability to respond effectively to climate-related risks^{14 15}. Moreover, climate-induced displacement and migration place additional burdens on marginalized communities, as they often lack social support networks and face marginalization in host communities^{16 17}.

Within the surveyed population in terms of climate migrant status, 37.3% of survey respondents identified as climate migrants. Conversely, 53.2% were not climate migrants, few cited reasons such as financial constraints or the presence of a disabled family member hindering relocation (Figure 10). A portion of respondents either expressed unawareness or chose not to disclose their migration status.

² Ali. S (2017)

³ Mahmood F., (2021)

⁴ IFAD (2020)

⁵ FAO (2015)

⁶ FAO (2011)

⁷ Kakar (2019)

⁸ Framework for Implementation of Climate Change Policy (2014-2030)

⁹ SRSP (2022)

¹⁰ Robinson (2022)

¹¹ Pakistan Red Cross Red Crescent (2021)

¹² NDMA (2020)

¹³ UN Women (2022)

¹⁴ Pakistan Biennial Update Report 1 (2022)

¹⁵ Framework for Implementation of Climate Change Policy (2014-2030)

¹⁶ Islamic Relief (2021)

¹⁷ NCSW (2022)

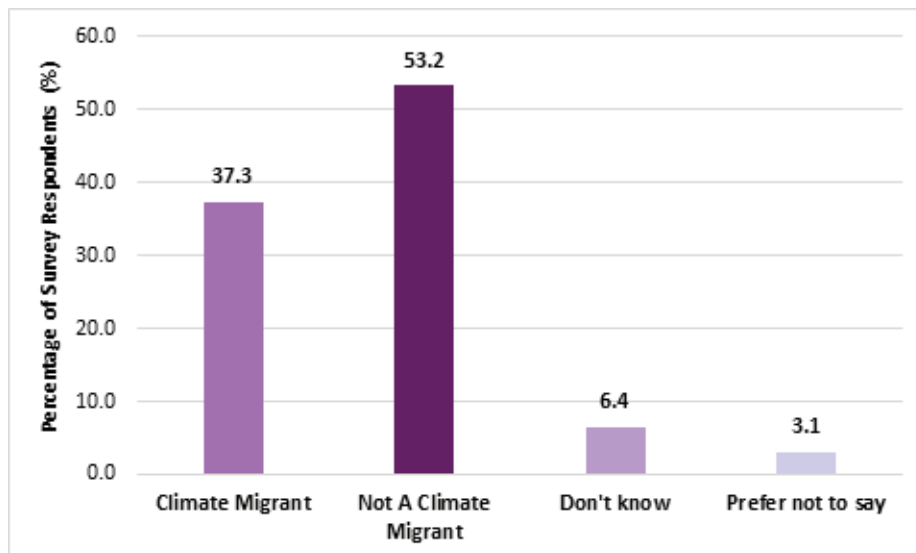


Figure 10: Climate Migrant Status of Survey Respondents

EVIDENCE OF A CHANGING CLIMATE

A substantial 78% of surveyed participants are aware of climate change, with 22% lacking awareness (see, Figure 11). Among those informed, the majority attribute their knowledge to firsthand experiences of witnessing climate change impacts within their communities.

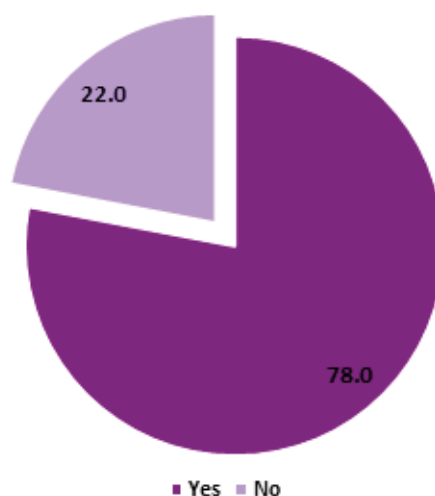


Figure 11: Awareness of Survey Participants on Climate Change

Concerning the evidence of climate change, as per the eyewitness accounts of the surveyed population. Figure 12 illustrates the diverse impacts of climate change reported by survey participants. Markedly, 28.2% cited water scarcity, while 24% experienced excessive rain and 21% flooding. Respondents from Sindh noted an increase in storms and rainfall, whereas those from Gilgit Baltistan reported greater incidences of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF), and KPK and Swat highlighted occurrences of wildfires. Survey participants also identified additional changes, encompassing temperature fluctuations (including heatwaves), altered snowfall patterns, and impacts on agriculture (e.g., changing crop patterns, direr lands, increased locust attacks), health, and livelihoods. These comprehensive responses emphasize the diverse and region-specific consequences of climate change observed by the surveyed communities. This necessitates localized (targeted) solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation.

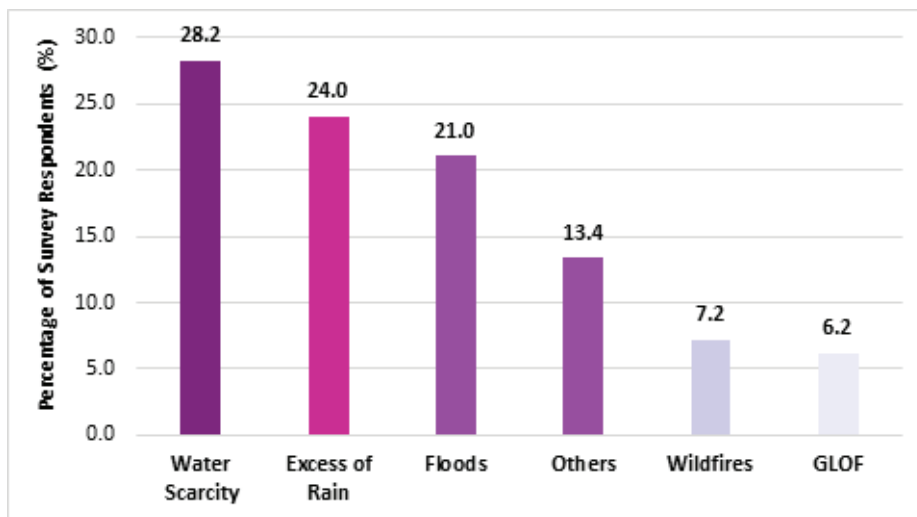


Figure 12: Noticeable Changes in Local Climate Over the Last Decade

Besides the apparent change in climatic patterns as observed by the surveyed population. A substantial 91.1% of the respondents thought that there was an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events.

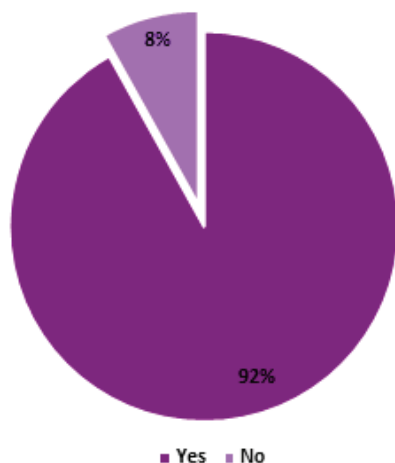


Figure 13: Increased Frequency of Extreme Weather Events

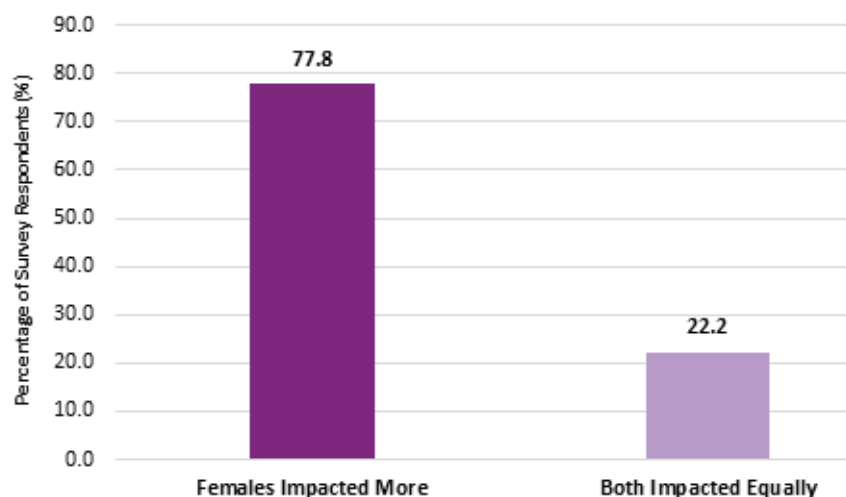


Figure 14: Impact of Climate Change Higher Female vs Male According to Surveyed Population



Evidently, 77.8% of survey respondents perceive a disproportionate impact of climate change on females compared to males. This belief is rooted in various factors such as increased household responsibilities, challenges in accessing water and sanitation (WASH), and difficulties in relocation from climate-vulnerable sites. Meanwhile, 22.2% hold the view that both genders are equally affected, attributing men's challenges to work-related issues, whilst acknowledging women's dual responsibilities in both the household and the fields. Interestingly, in Gilgit Baltistan, many women expressed that both genders face equal impacts, emphasizing the nuanced regional perspectives.



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IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON LIVELIHOODS

Climate change can impact the livelihood and well-being of vulnerable communities, especially if households are reliant on a single stream of incomes, and/or are dependent on climate-linked sectors such as agriculture, and fisheries¹⁸.

72% of surveyed households directly tie their income to climate conditions, emphasizing the vulnerability of their earnings to climatic changes (Figure 15). This aligns with the perceived impact on livelihoods, with reported consequences ranging from restricted access to food and clean water to limitations in earning opportunities due to climate-induced events like landslides and flooded fields.

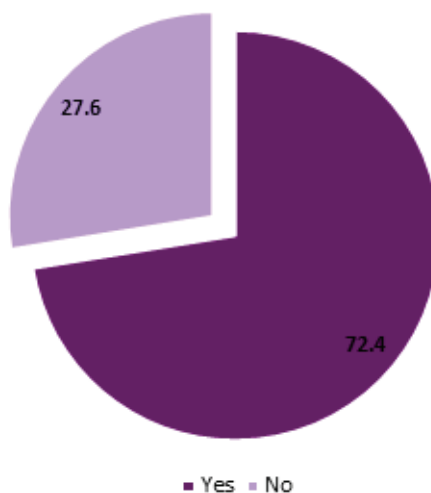


Figure 15: Percentage of Surveyed Respondents with Household Income Linked to Climate

¹⁸ FAO (2015)

In line with the above mentioned narrative, 71.7% of the surveyed households reported impacted livelihoods due to climatic changes, as depicted in Figure 16.

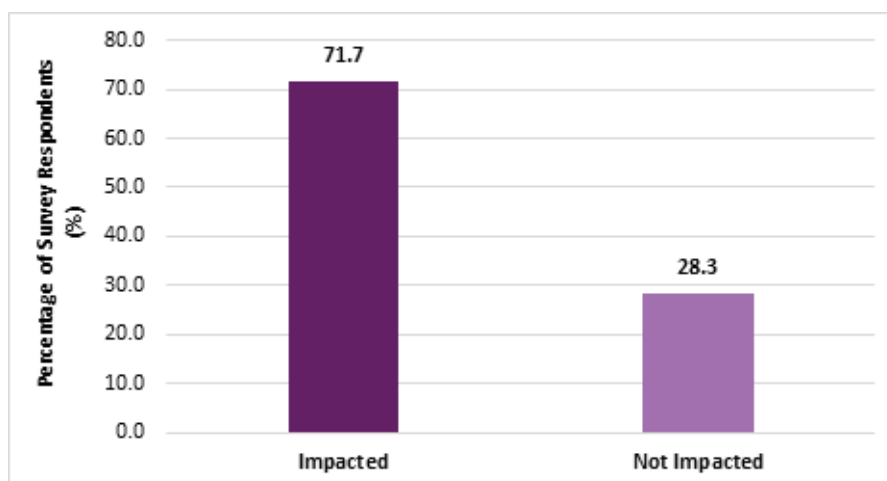


Figure 16: Percentage of Surveyed Participants with Impacted Livelihoods due to Climate Change

Additionally, of the surveyed households 92.3% have their primary income earners as males, and 4.7% as females, whereas 3% had both males and females (Figure 17). This indicates that predominantly there is one sole earner that the household relies on.

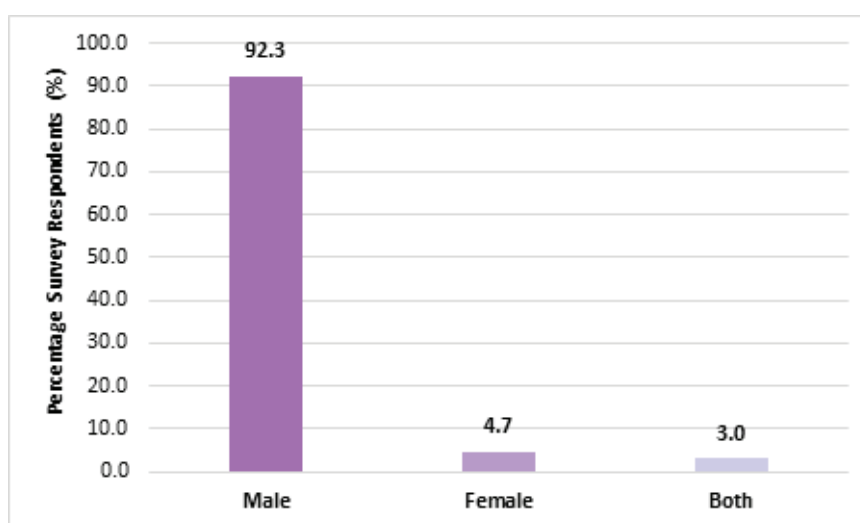


Figure 17: Primary Income Earner in Surveyed Households

36.6% of the surveyed participants reported having a monthly household income of “up to 15,000 PKR”, whereas 36.3% said they had an earning of up to 30,000 PKR per month (Figure 18). 12.9% had up to 50,000, and 7.5% had less than 15000 PKR monthly. Whereas only 6.8% had more than 50,000 PKR per month. Largely, this suggests that these climate-vulnerable communities have a household income less than the monthly average of the country¹⁹.

¹⁹ CEIC (2019)

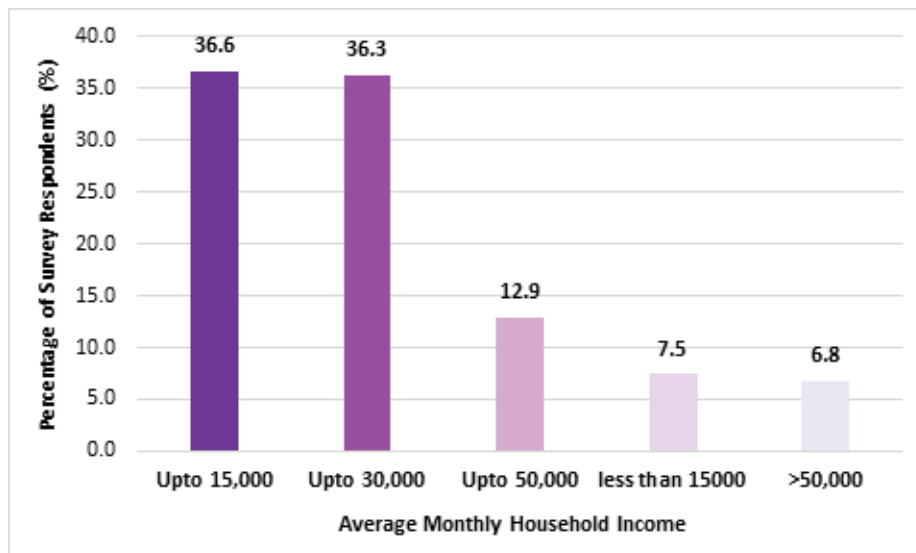


Figure 18: Monthly Household Income of Surveyed Participants

51.9% of the surveyed population indicated having no additional contribution to basic caregiving duties, whereas 45.5% said that in addition to their household duties (see, Figure 19), they mainly support work in the fields and livestock rearing, whilst others were engaged in community work.

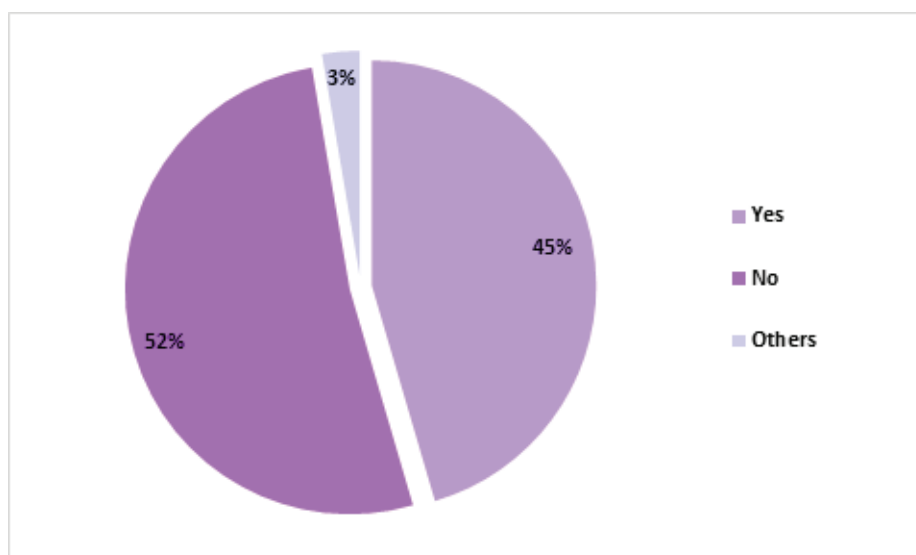


Figure 19: Contribution of Surveyed Respondents to Household in Addition to Basic Caregiving Duties

In terms of provision of stipends, in the case of limited income for women, 60% of the surveyed population said that they do not receive a monthly stipend from the head of the household. Mainly because a sizeable number of respondents reported not having enough household income for additional expenditure, or being in debt (Figure 20). In place, most women contribute to the main household income pool, rather than receiving it.

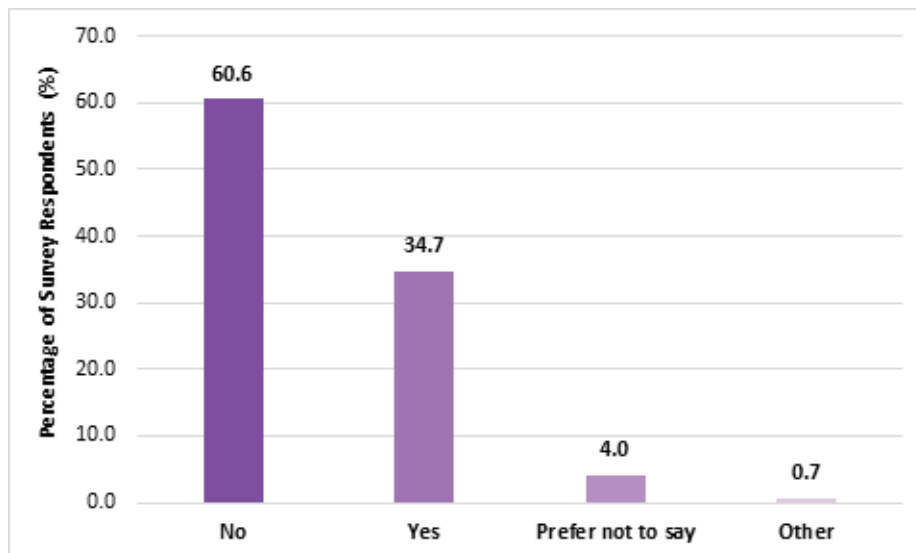


Figure 20: Provision of Monthly Stipend to Surveyed Participants from Primary Earner

Likewise, 74.3% of the survey respondents reported having no alternate source of livelihood/emergency fund in case of climate-induced disasters (see, Figure 21) as they have no extra earnings for savings or are in the process of re-payment of loans. Of the 25.7% that described having an emergency fund or alternate source of livelihood, the majority of the women mentioned community/neighborhood “committees” as a source, followed by seasonal activities such as harvesting wheat, or finding labor by temporarily relocating to cities in the case of disasters.

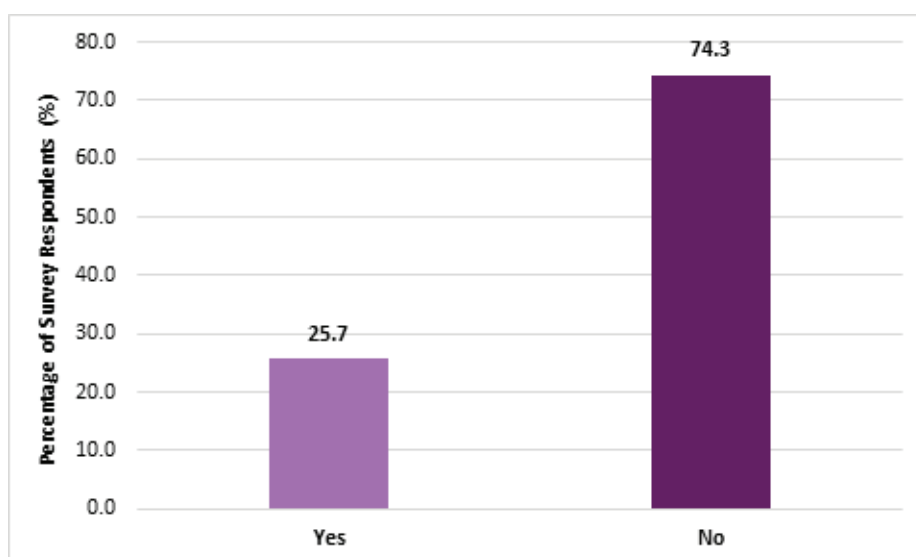


Figure 21: Alternate Source of Livelihood/Emergency Fund in Case of Climate-induced Disaster

ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPEMNT NEEDS

This section delves into the availability and subsequent effect of changing climatic conditions, and extreme weather on access to resources and basic services. The quantitative data on access to basic services e.g. clean water, sanitation facilities, etc. reveal that 47.3% of the surveyed population reported having access to essential services, while 52.7% indicated a lack of access (Figure 22), e.g., in Lembo Gaon, Sindh the water well is at a great distance and the water is not fit for drinking. Moreover, as per the survey respondents, access at times remained intermittent, for example, water supply was only available 4 out of 7 days in a community in Swat. Similarly, the water supply in Hassanabad in Hunza, and Swat Valley was available from a central communal pipeline. The overall results therefore highlight the profound implications of this disparity, encompassing challenges related to public health, socioeconomic well-being, and overall quality of life, and highlight the urgent need for targeted interventions, particularly in the context of climate change.

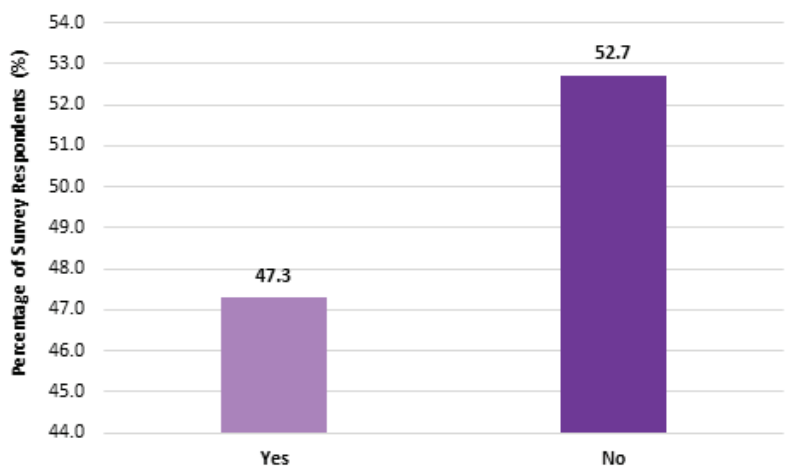


Figure 22: Access of Surveyed Population to Basic Services E.g. Clean Water and Sanitation Facilities

In addition to the inherent lack of access to basic services, the survey response reveals that 81.2% of the sample population’s access to these services is being impacted by climate change e.g., water gets turbid or supplies dwindle, while 18.8% indicated no impact (Figure 23). Calling for resilience-building efforts to address the adverse effects of climate change on access to basic services, ensuring the resilience and sustainability of affected communities.

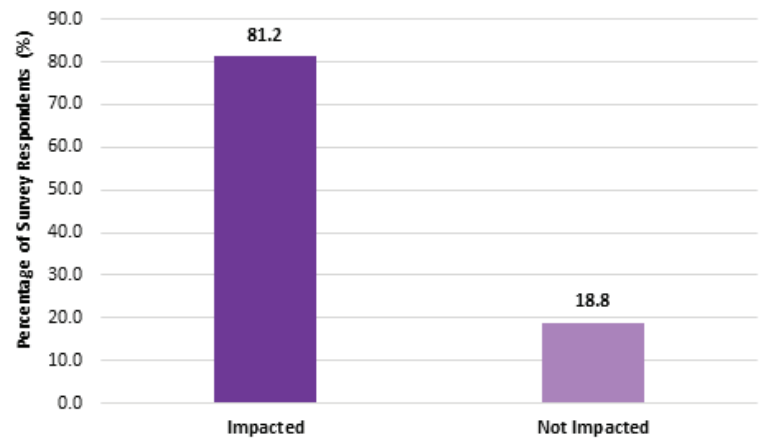


Figure 23: Access of Surveyed Population to Basic Services Impacted by Climate Change

Similar to the impact of climate change on basic services, there is a profound impact of climate change on access to firewood and other energy sources for cooking and heating. According to the survey, there is a significant of respondents 74.1% reporting significant disruption (Figure 24). Predominantly, the surveyed communities rely on firewood for energy requirements, and thus with the advent of frequent extreme weather events, there is a decline in firewood or blockage in access.

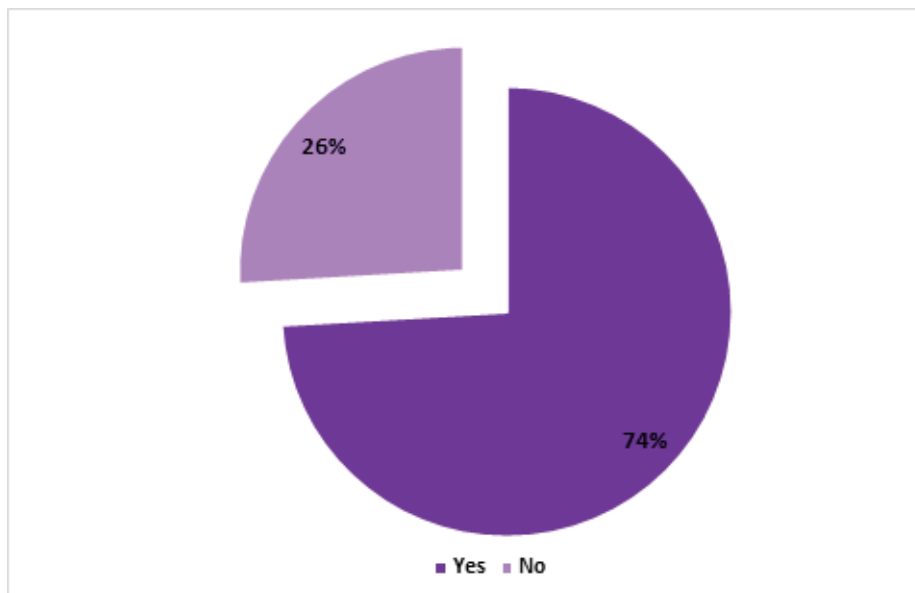


Figure 24: Impact of Climate Change on Surveyed Population's Access to Firewood/Energy Sources for Cooking and Heating

Besides the impact of access to services and energy needs, there is impact of climate change on access to education. Figure 25 depicts that 27.1% of the survey respondents reported significant disruption in accessing education due to climate change, such as school closures, displacement, and other related challenges. Comparatively, 17.3% reported being slightly disrupted. 29.5% of respondents reported experiencing other impacts (the majority cited that there was no working school system present in their area, or was at a great distance, especially for girls), 9.2% of the respondents said that they have been out of school for a long time due to continuous climate change disasters, while 7.8% reported no impact.

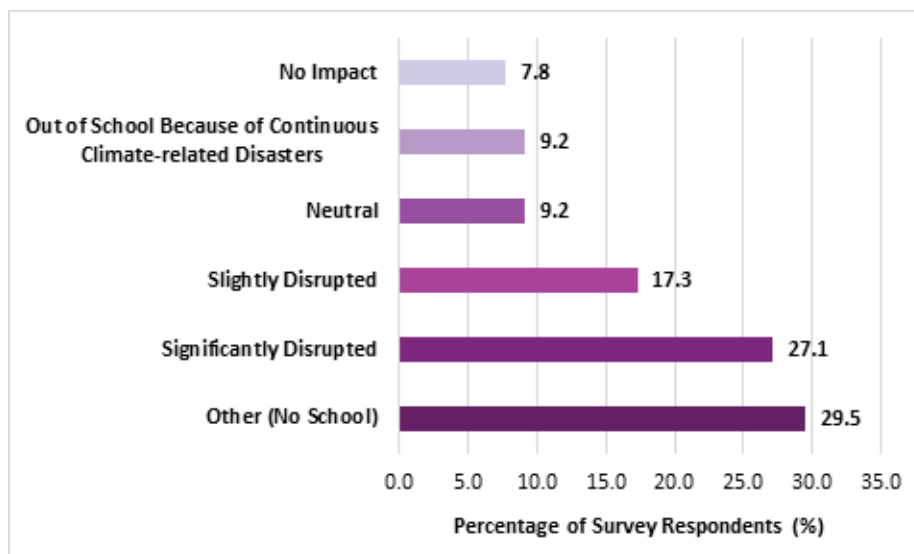


Figure 25: Impact of Climate Change on Surveyed Population's Access to Education

CLIMATE CHANGE-LINKED HEALTH ISSUES

Climate change-induced health impacts have been identified as a major cause of concern within climate-vulnerable communities²⁰. Figure 26 illustrates that 76.4% of the survey respondents reported experiencing physical health issues due to climate change, such as viral, gastroenteritis, waterborne diseases, heat-related illnesses, greater spread of allergies, and malaria. A smaller percentage (17.5%) reported experiencing mental health issues, including emotional trauma of displacement, loss of life and property, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders. Additionally, 6.1% of respondents reported being unimpacted.

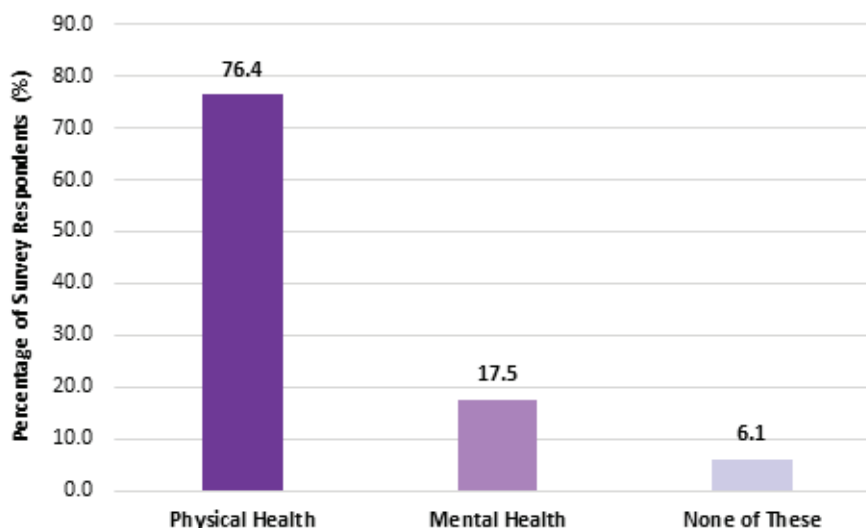


Figure 26: Climate Change-related Health Issues Identified by Survey Respondents

Interestingly, 60.7% of the surveyed respondents reported no loss of life due to climate change, whilst 39.3% experienced loss of life of a direct or distant relative resulting from an extreme weather event (Figure 27). The losses were described as either being direct result of the disaster or indirectly through the increased spread of diseases.

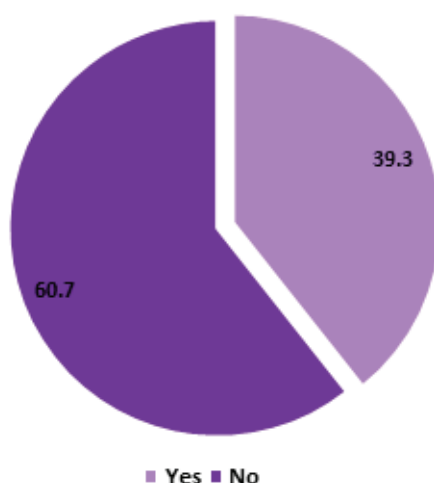


Figure 27: Percentage of Surveyed Population Impacted by Climate Change-induced Loss of Life

Despite the apparent impact of climate change on health, access to women-related health facilities remains dismal; Figure 28 illustrates this. The greatest lack of accessibility can be seen in maternal health (32%), followed by child health (25.8) and neo-natal health (10.4%). 12.2% of the surveyed population reports difficulty in accessing all of the mentioned facilities. Even in areas where there is accessibility, there is only the presence of a Basic Health Unit (BHU), and therefore for serious cases, women have to travel to nearby cities, often company of a male family member is necessary. In other cases reportedly there is a lack of availability of a lady doctor or is only available for a short time. Thus, there is a dire need for the upgradation of medical facilities to match the required needs of the communities.

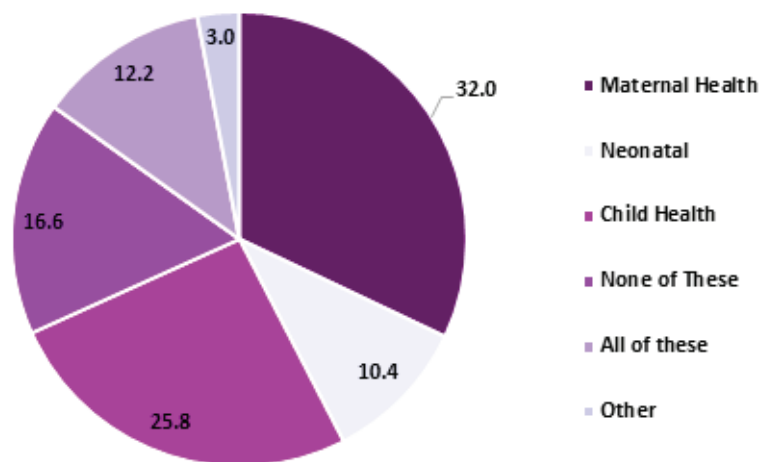


Figure 28: Lack of Access of Surveyed Population to Women-related Health Facilities

In terms of engagement with ‘women welfare organizations’, on climate change related vulnerabilities, 74.6% of the surveyed population cited having no engagement or outreach, whereas 25.4% of the survey respondents reported engagement for education on climate change and vulnerabilities (Figure 29). These findings emphasize the need for enhanced collaboration and support for women’s welfare organizations to effectively address the intersection of gender, climate change, and vulnerabilities.

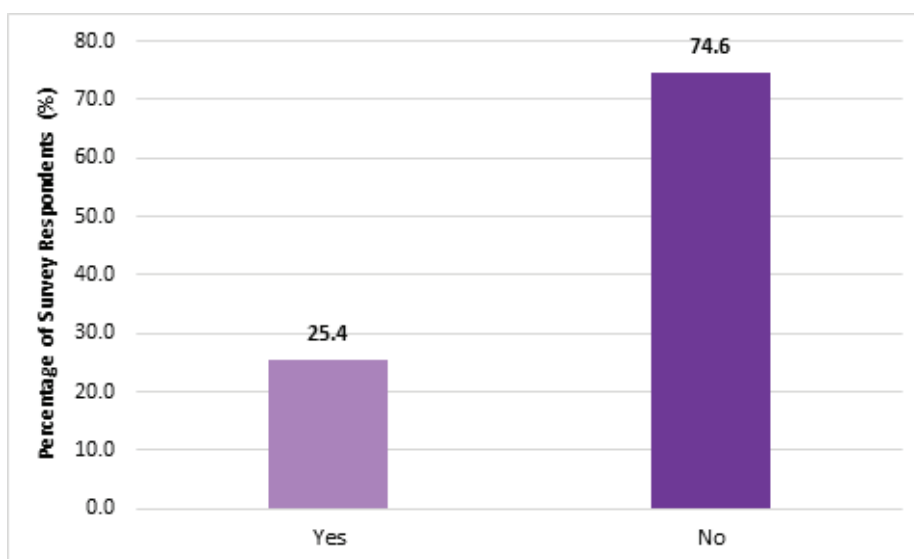


Figure 29: Engagement with Women’s Welfare Organizations for Education on Climate Change/Vulnerabilities

GENDER-SPECIFIC CHALLENGES LINKED TO CLIMATE CHANGE

As overviewed in literature climate change-induced disasters lead to increased workload for women due to change in access to resources or displacement/relocation. Information collected on gender-specific challenges linked to climate change reveals that 65.3% of the survey respondents reported facing gender-specific challenges linked to climate change, while 34.7% reported no such challenges (see, Figure 30). The specific nature of these challenges, as highlighted by the survey respondents indicates increased caregiving responsibilities within the household, difficulty in accessing clean water and firewood from nearby facilities, strain/constraints in family dynamics due to financial instability, and lack of privacy in confined shelters.

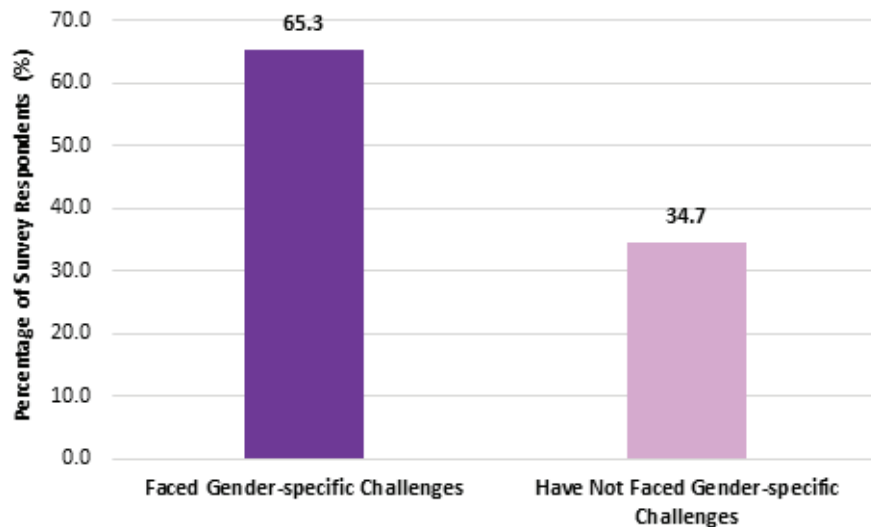


Figure 30: Gender-specific Challenges Linked to Climate Change

Figure 31 provides a breakdown of the survey responses with regards to safety concerns for women during/post extreme weather events. 18.8% of the women reported an increase in violence post-disaster events, mainly because of displacement due to floods, lack of resources, and changes in living patterns. Whereas, 13% of the respondents said that they suffered physical or emotional harassment resulting from shifting to non-permanent settlements and/or refugee camps with meager safety arrangements. Linked to this, 8.5% shared concerns about forced relocation from extreme weather events. However, the majority (59.7%) did not show any safety concerns. Conclusively, many of the issues arise from the displacement of vulnerable communities, which exacerbates the existing gender-specific challenges.

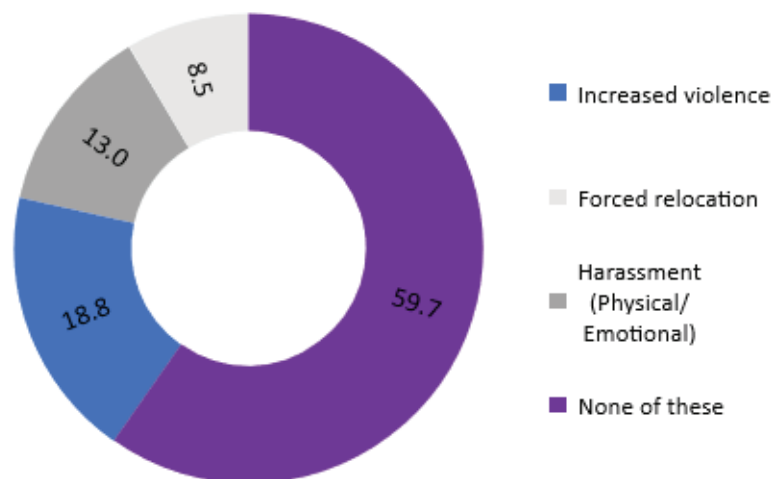


Figure 31: Percentage of Respondents with Safety Concerns During Extreme Weather Events

GENDER ROLES IN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION ACTIVITIES

As documented in the preceding sections, the impact of climate change is pronounced within the surveyed population. This necessitates the readiness of climate-vulnerable communities in terms of enhancement of resilience to climate change. As per the survey respondents, a significant 46.6% cited that no strategies have been adopted at present to cope with climate change. Whereas 13.1% of the respondents acknowledged using early warning systems, 12.8% mentioned water conservation, 8% emergency fund, 7% dedicated community teams for rescue and rehabilitation, and 6.4% changed agricultural practices. Additionally, 5.4% identified the utility of technologies such as mobile apps or television for weather updates. Overall, the collated data indicates the need for more opportunities and knowledge (and skills) to adopt and sustain climate action.

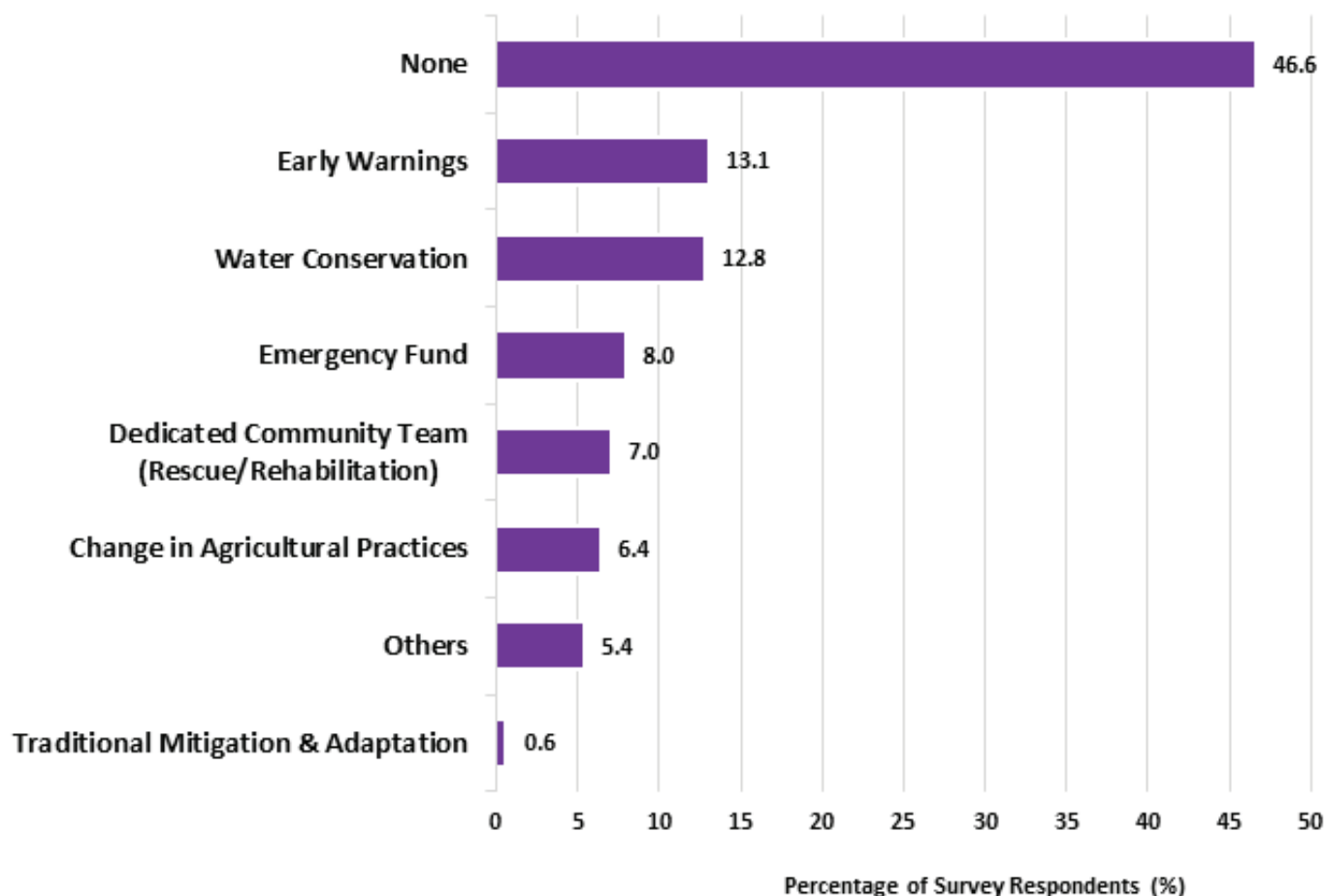


Figure 32: Existing Strategies Adopted to Cope with Changing Climate within the Surveyed Communities

Despite the need for knowledge and capacity building, according to the survey, 78.2% of respondents claimed that they did not receive support from organizations on climate change mitigation and/or adaptation; Figure 33 depicts the breakdown. Of the 21.8% of the population that received knowledge/capacity building, respondents identified the following support received, including: (1) installation of solar-powered water pumps; (2) provision of emergency kits for communities facing recurrent floods; (3) first-aid training; (4) training on evacuation to safe zones; (5) climate-smart agriculture (e.g., tunnel farming); (6) mangrove management in coastal areas; (6) apricot drying in GB; (7) cash/economic support for post-disaster rehabilitation. Therefore, support has largely been confined to specific areas, and there remains a need for more holistic yet targeted interventions.

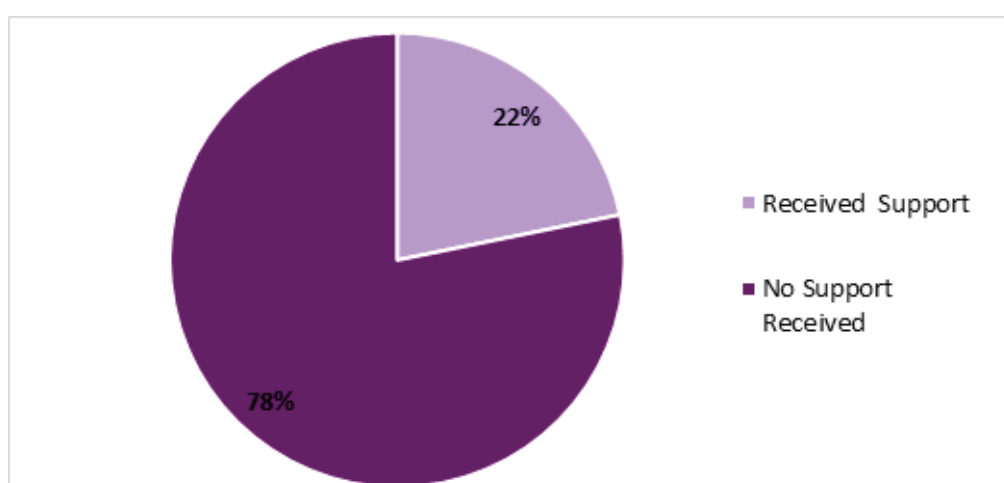


Figure 33: Support Received by Surveyed Population on Knowledge & Capacity Building on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

In terms of the support/assistance required Table 2 collates the main areas which were identified by the surveyed population. It is critical to note that with the evident lack of basic services in the surveyed communities, needs oftentimes are restricted to acquisition of the same. However, all areas linked to the enhancement of climate resilience.

TABLE 2: SUPPORT/ASSISTANCE REQUIRED AS IDENTIFIED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Areas Identified	Support/Assistance Required
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water conservation/Water conservation techniques • Resources required for the installation of water pumps • Water scarcity and clean water supply needs to be addressed
Awareness/Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of climate change impacts and training on the ways to mitigate it • Women and youth-centric climate change-related capacity building
Cooking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean cooking resources required to avoid deforestation
Skill Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical training and skill center for women (i.e. for skills like handicrafts, tailoring, and embroidery)
Livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement for livelihood diversification
Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstruction of damaged and nonfunctional school
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources to enhance crop production • Climate-resilient techniques for agriculture
Financial Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources required to purchase equipment for tailoring and embroidery • Establishment of emergency funds for women • Funds required for the construction of houses
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision and enhancement of basic medical facilities
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metalled road till newly elevated houses, and WASH facilities

WOMEN'S ROLE IN DECISION-MAKING AND LEADERSHIP ROLES IN CLIMATE VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

The final section of the information collected from the surveys delves into the inclusion of women in decision-making processes, and their willingness to take up leadership roles to mainstream gender-responsive climate action within their communities. As per the survey, 54% of the respondents stated that women were included in the decision-making processes regarding climate change within their households and communities, while 46% reported not being included (Figure 34). There is therefore a stark contrast in responses highlighting the existing disparities in gender-inclusive decision-making processes related to climate change within different communities.

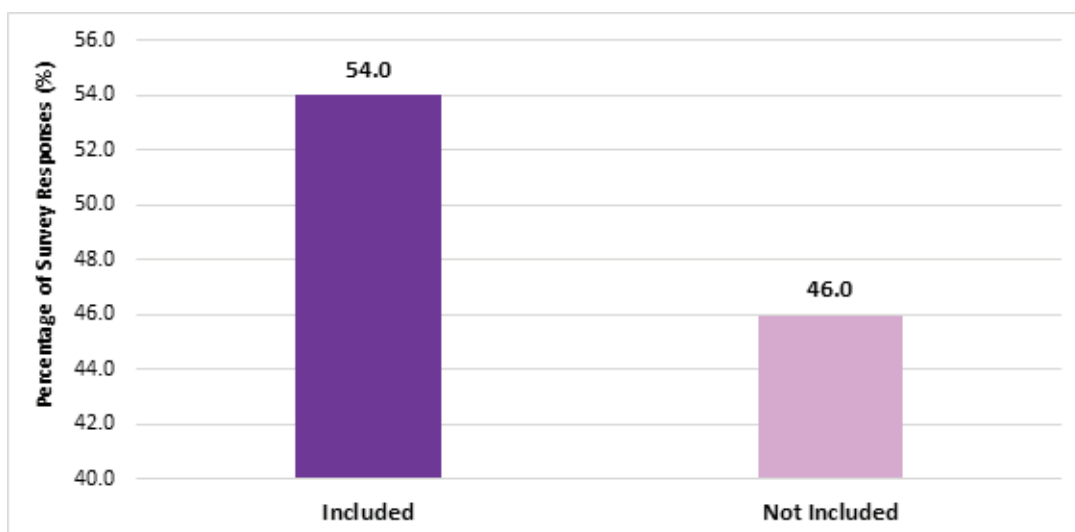


Figure 34: Inclusion of Women in Decision-making Processes within the Surveyed Population

Carrying forward, in response to the willingness to take up a leadership role within the community for climate action, an overwhelming 84.6% of the surveyed participants showed a keen interest (see Figure 35). Thus, with appropriate interventions for sensitization and capacity building, the community members will be able to contribute as leaders for climate action.

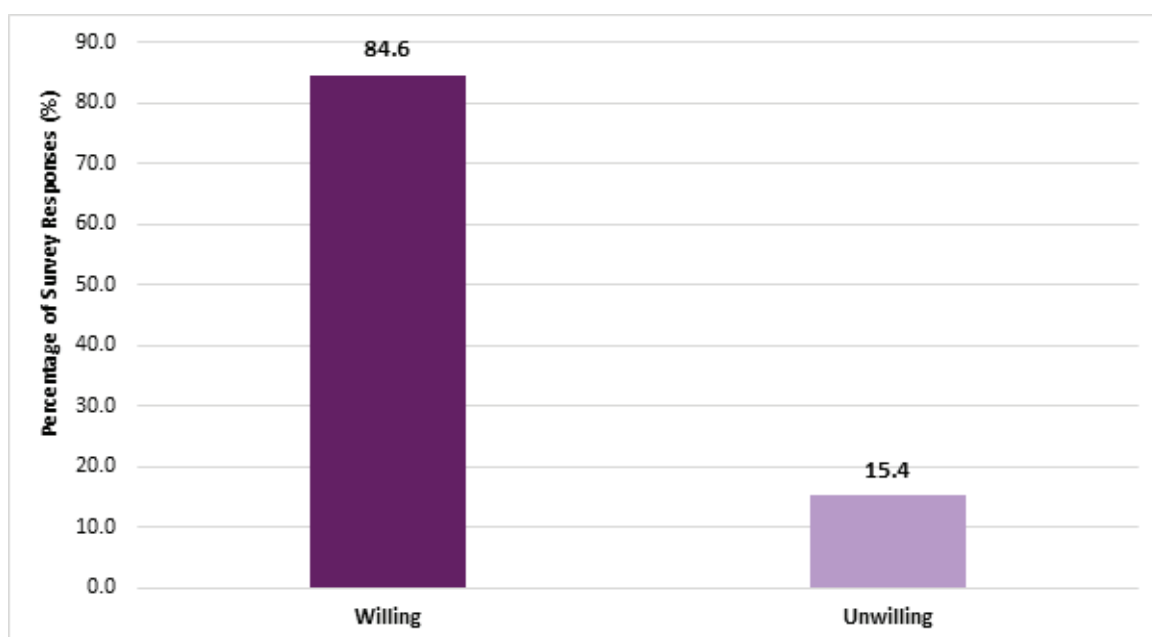


Figure 35: Willingness of the Surveyed Respondents to Participate in a Leadership Role for Climate Action

FIELD NOTES: INSIGHTS FROM WWF-PAKISTAN SURVEY TEAM

The current section provides a few of the direct accounts and observations from the WWF-Pakistan field staff that conducted on-ground surveys with the climate-vulnerable communities.

MADYAN, SWAT VALLEY

“Upon arriving in Swat, the sheer scale of destruction was both disheartening and astonishing. However, I was pleasantly surprised by the accommodating nature of the male community members. Their proactive organization of gatherings, a testament to the well-known Pashtun community spirit, facilitated our surveys, allowing for a meaningful interaction with the local women. Eager to share their experiences, the women awaited immediate relief from the consequences of devastating floods triggered by climate change.

Numerous pressing issues were brought to light by the women in the community, foremost among them being the scarcity of clean drinking water resulting from flooding. The arduous journeys undertaken to access safe drinking options imposed an additional burden, considering their responsibilities for household chores and childcare. The devastation caused by flooding also significantly impacted fruiting trees, particularly the prominent Persimmon fruit, which served as a vital source of subsistence for the community. Traditionally, this fruit is sold in local markets to earn income.

The repercussions of flooding also extended to health concerns, with females reporting severe gastro-related issues, especially among children, exacerbated post-flood. Crops and vegetation were severely damaged, affecting both subsistence and fodder for their livestock. Limited healthcare facilities compounded the challenges, with reported mortalities adding to the gravity of the situation. The reduction in firewood due to submerged trees particularly affected those in lower Madyan areas, intensifying their vulnerability compared to counterparts in higher regions.

Compounding these adversities, moving to safer areas proved financially unattainable for the affected communities. Similarly, the destruction of the only girls' school further compounded challenges for females, hindering educational opportunities. Conversations with the community revealed that rehabilitation efforts were insufficient, with limited funds allocated for this purpose. The need for a holistic approach, encompassing environmental conservation, sustainable development, and enhanced access to education and healthcare, emerged as critical to addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by the resilient women of Swat.”

Amina Jamil (Wildlife Department, WWF-Pakistan)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SURVEYS IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA



Snapshots from Surveys in Madyan, Swat Valley



Snapshots from Surveys in Bagnotar and Chatarnath, Abotabad Region

TAUNSA, SOUTH PUNJAB

“Upon arriving in Swat, the sheer scale of destruction was both disheartening. It was observed that most of the villages near the Taunsa barrage were semi-permanent mud houses, whereas the fishermen community that lived at the bank of the Indus River were living in temporary huts. The residents of both areas reported that their houses were greatly affected by the floods of 2022. The women in these villages were mostly involved in fishing and handicrafts, but they complained that there was no market for their products and didn’t have enough resources to have products developed (value addition). The women in all the surveyed sites reported that there is no security when it comes to their children and lots of women faced harassment in many instances. Furthermore, there is an issue with the availability of potable water and since the water source for these villages was unclean; their women and children suffered from various waterborne diseases. Poor hygiene, issues, and infestation of various insects have also been there all along. They also reported that there is no maternity care available. For even a small item they have to walk miles to get to the market areas. These women also complained about the inavailability of energy in their area, they use kerosene lamps at night but this has hampered their lives and livelihoods. Women are not encouraged to study or work apart from making handicrafts. Climate-induced disasters exacerbates their existing issues exponentially.”

Nazifa Butt (Climate & Energy Programme, WWF-Pakistan)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SURVEYS IN SOUTH PUNJAB



MURIDKE, CENTRAL PUNJAB

“Assessment of climate change impacts in the context of gender disparities/ women empowerment was carried out in remote areas of Muridke through face-to-face interviews with local women. The residents expressed their willingness to cooperate and openly answered questions asked by the WWF-Pakistan team. Already common in most of the country’s rural areas, patriarchal cultural mindset was observed in these areas where the decisions are made for women, not by them. In some areas, clean water and sanitation facilities were limited where open drainage channels pose serious health problems for local children and women while fetching water over long distances was also one of the issues faced by a considerable number of women. On a positive note, it was also observed that most houses were built from concrete structures, providing climate resilience against natural disasters like floods and excessive rainfall events. Besides this women showed their interest in becoming members of women empowerment organizations which will support their capacity developments for improving future livelihoods and creating new job opportunities.”

Syed Hassam Ali (Climate & Energy Programme, WWF-Pakistan)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SURVEYS IN CENTRAL PUNJAB



“Keti Bunder and Nagarparkar (Sindh) were profoundly impacted by many climate change events, including monsoon floods, rainfall, cyclones, droughts, water scarcity, heat waves, and thunderstorms. The inhabitants of these areas suffered greatly due to these severe events. My perception/imagination of these areas sharply contrasted with their harsh reality. I used to believe that life was more or less similar for people across different areas of Pakistan, especially while enjoying the privileges and comforts of my own life. However, upon visiting these locations and engaging with the residents, it became evident that my initial perception was significantly different from the reality on the ground.

During my interactions, I found that the people of Keti Bunder and Nagarparkar, particularly women, were very friendly and welcoming. While talking to them, I sensed that those women were going through a lot, and some of them were not even aware of their own rights or life goals.

A few points that I observed include:

- Among the issues I noticed; the prevalent one was regarding access to clean drinking water. It was distressing to realize that clean water was a privilege for these communities. People living in villages in Keti Bunder somehow had access to clean water, but women in the areas of Nagarparkar had to walk to wells to fetch water. Even after their efforts, the water they collected and drank remained contaminated and unfit for consumption.
- Despite the significant impact of severe climate events in these areas, there was a notable absence of early warning systems to alert residents of future disasters.
- Some women were unaware of the consequences of climate change on women compared to men, and they believed that men suffered more as they performed all the outdoor livelihood works. In my opinion, this misconception primarily stemmed from the lack of education and awareness in these areas regarding the impacts of climate change on different genders.
- The absence of nearby schools posed a significant obstacle to children's education, irrespective of gender. However, certain women expressed that both they and their husbands were hesitant to send their daughters to school. But they acknowledged that if a school is established close to their homes, they prioritize sending their daughters for basic education.
- Access to medical facilities was also a significant concern in these areas, requiring both women and men to travel to nearby cities or areas with health-care centers for medical services.

To summarize, Keti Bunder and Nagarparkar encounter various problems made worse by climate change, poor infrastructure, and limited access to education and healthcare. Addressing these problems needs thorough efforts to better the lives of all residents, especially women and children, in these neglected areas.”

Hira Muzaffar (Climate & Energy Programme, WWF-Pakistan)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SURVEYS IN SINDH



LASBELA, BALOCHISTAN

“In Lasbela, Baluchistan, Pakistan, the survey study was all about understanding how climate change affects people, especially women; and if any support is required in this regard. The team visited different communities with variations of social class, from the higher social class with more education and money to the moderate class with fair education and money to the poorer ones with fewer resources. In the wealthier areas, some people knew about climate change, but its effects weren't very clear to them, they were just pointing it out indirectly. The women of that class were eager to help and support their communities in this regard. They were majorly facing the problems of water pollution, fishing being impacted by climate change, and not enough jobs/opportunities. In moderate to less wealthy areas, women often couldn't get involved because of old beliefs that men should make the decisions. Some people thought everything was just meant to be, despite facing problems like extreme heat and not enough rain. But it was in the poorest areas where life was really tough. Climate change changed the living patterns of those communities for example, the only source of firewood was forests, but deforestation and unsustainable consumption patterns have destroyed the whole cycle. People and animals shared water sources, and there was hardly any education. Climate change wasn't something they thought about—they were just trying to survive each day. These experiences tell us how important it is to include everyone, especially those who are struggling the most when we talk about and try to fix climate change.”

Haseeb Khan (Climate & Energy Programme, WWF-Pakistan)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SURVEYS IN BALOCHISTAN



GILGIT BALTISTAN: HASANABAD AND PASSU, HUNZA

"In the remote landscapes of Gilgit-Baltistan, nestled amidst the grandeur of over 7,000 glaciers, the villages of Hassanabad and Passu confront the devastating impacts of climate change, particularly Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs). The 2022 climate catastrophe wreaked havoc in these areas, as it did across several hotspots in Pakistan, destroying homes and livelihoods. The Hassanabad bridge and its destruction were broadcast across screens worldwide. Yet, what the world saw was just the tip of the iceberg. The true extent of the devastation was far more profound, and heartbreaking to witness. Even today, many of the community members, especially women continue to suffer the after-effects, both physically and emotionally. The initial aid efforts from NGOs and government organizations provided only temporary relief, leaving displaced families in cramped shelters with inadequate privacy. Those whose houses were damaged or destroyed do not have enough resources to rebuild; with the meager amount of household earnings. The community in Passu specifically has been facing an increasing amount of land erosion, as the river expands, taking over fertile land, and destroying the beautiful cherry "baghs" that dot the river-front and contribute greatly to the livelihoods of the community. Similarly, access to essential services like healthcare remained limited. However, amidst the despair, glimpses of hope emerge, hearing about young girls pursuing education and entrepreneurship (especially linked to tourism). Initiatives like FOCUS training for early warning and rescue offer some preparation, but the challenges posed by climate change persist. The survey results not only underscore the resilience of these communities amidst adversity but also the wide gap that must be filled as we race against minimizing the impending impacts of frequent climate-induced disasters."

Fatimah Mahmood (Climate & Energy Programme, WWF-Pakistan)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SURVEYS IN GILGIT BALTISTAN



KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE STUDY

- Most participants indicated having knowledge of climate change owing to their experiences living in climate vulnerable communities.
- Impacts such as water scarcity, excessive rain and stormy weather leading to flooding, altered precipitation patterns, fluctuation in temperatures, and its interlinkage with impacts on agriculture and livelihoods. An overwhelming majority agreed that the frequency of extreme weather events have increased manifold.
- The impacts were more pronounced within the female population due to increased household responsibilities and difficulty in access to basic resources. Whilst impacts on males were mainly challenges linked to affected work and livelihood.
- 72% of the surveyed households had livelihoods linked to climate change, exacerbating the vulnerabilities further, whereas majority don't have an alternate source of income, or savings for an emergency fund.
- Predominantly, the households were headed by males (69%).
- Most of the climate-vulnerable population resides in "kutcha" houses, which are more susceptible to natural disasters; thus are oftentimes led to climate migration (temporarily or permanent).
- 66.6% of the surveyed participants indicated having no education, those that did were mainly restricted to school-level education, only a small percentage attained higher education.
- A significant percentage of the sampled population were not directly engaged in work, however supported the household, through farming, livestock rearing, and lesser still engaged in occupation such as tailoring and handicrafts.
- 92% of the primary income earners are male, which entails the level of dependance on the sole earner of the household. Concurrently, 66% of the population has an average monthly income between 15 to 30,000 PKR, which is insufficient, whereas many families continue to live under debt, climate change add onto the financial woes/reduced wellbeing of the vulnerable population.
- In terms of access to resources, there remains a dearth of basic services such as clean drinking water and WASH facilities, firewood, that are further depleted by changing climatic conditions and extreme weather events.
- Similarly, the same pattern was observed in the access of education & health services.
- In terms of the impact on health, a significant percentage reported physical health issues (with increased prevalence of diseases), whilst a smaller percentage mentioned mental health concerns such as Post-traumatic Stress.
- Despite the stark impact/vulnerabilities meagre support/sensitization has been provided to women by governmental/ non-governmental organisations to enhance their climate resilience.
- Approximately 65% mentioned facing gender-specific challenges especially linked to increased caregiving responsibilities, constraints arising from financial, safety and privacy concerns resulting from forced relocation resulting from disasters.
- Although most did not report safety concerns, there were instances of increased violence and physical/emotional harassment amongst surveyed participants.
- As per the survey respondents, a significant 46.6% cited that no strategies have been adopted at present to cope with climate change. Whereas 13.1% of the respondents acknowledged using early warning systems, 12.8% mentioned water conservation, 8% emergency fund, 7% dedicated community teams for rescue and rehabilitation, and 6.4% changed agricultural practices. Additionally, 5.4% identified the utility of technologies such as mobile apps or television for weather updates.

- 78.2% of respondents claimed that they did not receive support from organizations on climate change mitigation and/or adaptation. Of the 21.8% of the population that received knowledge/capacity building, respondents identified the following support received, including: (1) installation of solar-powered water pumps; (2) provision of emergency kits for communities facing recurrent floods; (3) first-aid training; (4) training on evacuation to safe zones; (5) climate-smart agriculture (e.g., tunnel farming); (6) mangrove management in coastal areas; (6) apricot drying in GB; (7) cash/economic support for post-disaster rehabilitation. Therefore, support has largely been confined to specific areas, and there remains a need for more holistic yet targeted interventions.
- In terms of the support/assistance required the main areas which were identified by the surveyed population denote that with there is an evident lack of basic services in the surveyed communities, 'needs' oftentimes are restricted to acquisition of the same.
- As per the survey, 54% of the respondents stated that women were included in the decision-making processes regarding climate change within their households and communities, while 46% reported not being included. There is therefore a stark contrast in responses highlighting the existing disparities in gender-inclusive decision-making processes related to climate change within different communities.
- Carrying forward, in response to the willingness to take up a leadership role within the community for climate action, an overwhelming 84.6% of the surveyed participants showed a keen interest. Thus, with appropriate interventions for sensitization and capacity building, the community members will be able to contribute as leaders for climate action.

The findings of the study highlight the profound impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities, particularly exacerbating existing gender disparities and economic vulnerabilities. Despite facing significant challenges, including inadequate resources and limited support, there exists a palpable willingness among community members, especially women, to engage in climate action and leadership roles. However, addressing these complex issues requires holistic and targeted interventions that prioritize basic needs, empower marginalized voices, and foster inclusive decision-making processes. By leveraging community resilience and agency, coupled with comprehensive support mechanisms, sustainable pathways toward climate adaptation and mitigation can be forged, ensuring just climate resilience.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

WWF-Pakistan would like to acknowledge the commitment of all the people and organizations at the local level, which supported in the execution of the surveys, and connecting the Project Team to hard-to-reach climate vulnerable communities.

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Sindh:

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Gilgit Baltistan:

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Balochistan:

Usama Hussain, Tehreem Siddiqui, Azan.

Annexure: Survey: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment on Climate Change Issues under Pakistan's Third National Communication on Climate Change under the UNFCCC

Demographic Questions:

1. Which province do you reside in?
(a) Punjab (b) Sindh (c) Balochistan (d) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
2. Are you a climate migrant? (Currently or in the past)
(a) Yes (b) No (c) Prefer Not to Say (d) Don't Know
3. What is your age?
10-20 20-30 30-40 40-50 50+
4. Are you the head of the family?
(a) Yes (b) No
5. What is your marital status?
(a) Married (b) Unmarried
6. What is the size of your family (Total Members)?
(a) 2 – 3 (b) 4 – 5 (c) 6 – 7 (d) 8 – 10 (e) 10+
7. What is the basic formation of your House?
(a) Kutcha (b) Pucca (c) Not Sure (d) Other _____
8. Is that house rented or owned?
(a) Yes (b) No (c) Partially
9. What is your level of education?
(a) Middle (b) Secondary (c) Higher Secondary (d) Bachelors (e) Masters (f) None
10. Do you work? If yes please specify.
(a) Farmer (b) Teacher (c) Laborer (d) Prefer Not to Say (e) Community Work (f) Other

Section A: Evidence of Changing Climate Change

1. Do you know what climate change is?
(a) Yes (b) No
2. Have you noticed any changes in the local climate over the past decade? Please describe.
(a) Floods (b) Wildfires (c) Earthquake (d) Excess of Rain (e) Water Scarcity (f) Others
3. Has the frequency of extreme weather events increased over the years?
(a) Yes (b) No
4. Do you think women are impacted more by climate change than men?
(a) Yes (b) No

Section B: Livelihood

1. Who is the primary income earner in your household? (a) Male (b) Female
2. What is your monthly income?
(a) Upto 15 thousand (b) Upto 30 thousand (c) Upto 50 thousand (d) > 50 thousand
3. Do you perform any other work apart from taking care of the household?
(a) Yes (b) No (c) Others
4. Do you get a monthly stipend from the head of the house? (For unemployed respondents) (a) Yes (b) No (c) Prefer Not to Say
5. Is your household income linked to a climate-related sector (e.g., agriculture, fisheries)? (a) Yes (b) No
6. Have extreme weather events (e.g., floods, droughts) affected your livelihood, loss, and damage (e.g., family members, houses, livestock, access to food)?
(a) Yes (b) No
7. Do you have an alternate source of livelihood, or savings in the case of loss of primary income from disasters?
(a) Yes, please specify _____ (b) No

Section C: Access to Resources and Development Needs

1. Do you have access to land, clean water, and sanitation facilities in your community?
(a) Yes (b) No
2. Has climate change impacted this access? (e.g., you have to go farther to fetch water).
(a) Yes (b) No
3. Has climate change affected your access to firewood or other sources of energy for cooking and heating?
(a) Yes, please specify _____ (b) No
4. Has climate change affected you or your family's access to education? (Especially girls)

Out-of-School Because of Continuous Climate-related Disasters (a)	Significantly Disrupted (b)	Neutral (c)	Slightly Disrupted (d)	No Impact (e)
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Section D: Climate Change-linked Health & Well-being

1. Have you or your family members experienced any health issues (physical or mental) related to climate change impacts (e.g., heat-related illnesses, waterborne diseases (e.g., cholera, gastro, dengue/malaria)?

(a) Physical Health (b) Mental Health (c) None of These

2. Have you or the women/girls in your family experienced difficulty in accessing facilities for women-related health issues/maternal health/neonatal/child health due to climate change disasters?

(a) Maternal Health (b) Neonatal (c) Child Health (d) None of These

3. Are you part of or have been approached by any women's welfare organization regarding climate education or vulnerabilities?

(a) Yes (b) No

4. Have you lost (fatally) any member of your family due to climate change?

(a) Yes (b) No

Section E: Gender-based Violence

1. Have you faced any gender-specific challenges related to climate change impacts? (e.g., increased caregiving responsibilities, reduced income-earning opportunities)

(a) Yes, please specify_____ (b) No

2. Are there any safety concerns for women during extreme weather events (e.g., increased gender-based violence or security issues in relocation or at relief camps)?

(a) Increased Violence (b) Forced Relocation (c) Harassment (Physical/Emotional) (d) None of These

Section F: Gender Roles in Mitigating & Adapting to Climate Change

1. What strategies have been adopted to cope with the changing climate within your community?

(a) Emergency Fund (b) Early Warnings (c) Dedicated Community Team (Rescue/Rehabilitation) (d) Water Conservation (e) Change in Agricultural Practices (f) Others_____ (g) Traditional, please specify_____

2. Have you received any assistance from organizations (governmental and non-governmental): such as knowledge sharing or capacity building?

(a) Yes (b) No

3. If yes: what kind of assistance? _____

4. If not: what kind of assistance would you want? _____

5. Are you included in decision-making processes when it comes to making decisions surrounding climate change mitigation and adaptation?

(a) Yes (b) No

6. Would you agree to be a part of a leadership role to uplift your society's condition?

(a) Yes (b) No



Why we are here:

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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