

SUMMARY of the article “Climate resilience,” Editorial, published on November 28, 2023

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has advised Pakistan to utilize its resources more effectively and efficiently to build climate-resilient infrastructure, emphasizing the need to strengthen the country’s capacity to attract climate finance. Pakistan, being highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, seeks international support to achieve its climate finance targets. The IMF suggests that formulating robust public investment policies aligned with national climate adaptation and mitigation goals is crucial. The Fund envisions the next budget as a “turning point” for planning mechanisms and investment portfolios focused on climate adaptation. Currently, Pakistan faces challenges with low capital stock and the efficiency of public investment. The IMF calls for enhanced transparency regarding climate-related actions in budget documents, urging the Planning Commission and the finance ministry to propose improvements for inclusion in the next budget. Furthermore, the government is encouraged to publish its climate-related spending for the ongoing fiscal year.

Pakistan has endured numerous climate disasters due to global warming, and the World Bank estimates that 6.5-9% of GDP may be lost by 2050 if climate change impacts are not addressed. Recent devastating floods, causing extensive displacement and economic losses, underscore the urgent need for increased investments in climate-resilient infrastructure. Rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall patterns heighten the risks of floods, cyclones, droughts, and heatwaves. Policymakers are urged to develop sound policies that transparently address climate risks through investments in resilient infrastructure, mitigating the impact of climate change and natural disasters.

Despite policymakers’ understanding of climate threats, Pakistan remains



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inadequately prepared to handle the consequences of climate change.

Bureaucratic inertia, policy ad-hocism, and a reactive approach have hindered the country's ability to address climate-related challenges effectively. The article stresses the critical importance of planning and aligning public investments with national climate goals to ensure the climate resilience of the economy.

Easy/Short SUMMARY:

The IMF advises Pakistan to efficiently use its resources for building climate-resilient infrastructure, acknowledging the country's vulnerability to climate change. The recommendation emphasizes aligning public investments with national climate goals and calls for transparency in budget documents regarding climate-related actions. Pakistan, having experienced severe climate disasters, urgently needs robust policies and investments in resilient infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. Despite policymakers' understanding, the country remains ill-prepared, necessitating immediate action to ensure climate resilience.

****SOLUTIONS of The Problem**:**

1. Green Technology Adoption

Encourage the adoption of green technologies and sustainable practices across industries. Offering incentives and subsidies for businesses implementing eco-friendly technologies can contribute to reducing the overall carbon footprint.

2. Community Awareness and Involvement

Launch extensive awareness campaigns at the community level to educate the public about climate change impacts and the importance of resilience. Involve local communities in decision-making processes related to climate adaptation projects to ensure they meet the specific needs of each region.

3. Ecosystem Restoration and Conservation

Invest in large-scale ecosystem restoration projects, including afforestation and reforestation initiatives. Protecting and rehabilitating natural habitats

can enhance biodiversity, mitigate climate risks, and improve overall ecosystem resilience.

4. Climate-Resilient Agriculture Practices

Promote and support the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices. This includes introducing drought-resistant crops, efficient water management systems, and educating farmers on sustainable farming techniques that are less vulnerable to climate-related challenges.

5. Early Warning Systems

Develop and strengthen early warning systems for extreme weather events. Investing in advanced meteorological technologies and communication infrastructure can help communities prepare for and respond to disasters more effectively, reducing the impact on lives and livelihoods.

6. Research and Development

Allocate funds for research and development in climate science and technology. Supporting innovative solutions and technologies designed specifically for Pakistan's climate challenges can lead to breakthroughs in resilience strategies.

7. Inclusive Climate Education

Integrate climate change education into school curricula at all levels. By fostering a culture of environmental responsibility from an early age, the younger generation can contribute to sustainable practices and drive positive change in the long term.

8. International Collaboration

Strengthen diplomatic ties and collaboration with international organizations and countries experienced in climate resilience. Form partnerships to share knowledge, resources, and best practices, leveraging global expertise to enhance Pakistan's resilience strategies.

9. **Private Sector Engagement**

Encourage private sector involvement in climate resilience projects through public-private partnerships. This can stimulate innovation, attract additional funding, and ensure a holistic approach to addressing climate challenges.

10. **Regulatory Framework for Climate Resilience**

Develop and enforce comprehensive regulatory frameworks that mandate climate resilience standards across sectors. This includes building codes, infrastructure requirements, and environmental impact assessments to ensure long-term sustainability.

These solutions aim to provide a multifaceted and comprehensive approach to building climate resilience in Pakistan. Owing to its importance, here are 5 additional solutions to address the climate resilience challenges in Pakistan:

Enhance Public Investment Efficiency

Improve the efficiency of public investments by aligning them with climate adaptation and mitigation goals, ensuring that funds are used effectively for building climate-resilient infrastructure.

Strengthen Transparency in Budget Documents

Implement measures to enhance transparency in budget documents, providing clear information on key aspects of the public investment program related to climate resilience, fostering accountability and informed decision-making.

Strategic Planning by the Planning Commission

The Planning Commission, in collaboration with the finance ministry, should develop a proposal for climate-resilient infrastructure planning and investment portfolios, aiming for inclusion in the upcoming budget to make it a pivotal moment for climate adaptation.

Publication of Climate-Related Spending

The government should proactively publish details of its climate-related spending for the ongoing fiscal year, promoting transparency and accountability in the utilization of funds for climate resilience.

Capacity Building for Climate Finance

Enhance Pakistan's capacity to attract climate finance by improving its policies and mechanisms, encouraging international support, and fostering partnerships for climate-resilient initiatives.

IMPORTANT Facts and Figures Given in the article:

- Pakistan has been advised by the IMF to build climate-resilient infrastructure efficiently and attract climate finance.
- The World Bank estimates that 6.5-9% of GDP may be lost by 2050 due to climate change impacts, causing floods, heatwaves, and reduced farm yields.
- Last year's devastating floods in Pakistan resulted in economic losses exceeding \$30 billion.
- The IMF emphasizes the need for the next budget to be a "turning point" for planning mechanisms and investments focused on climate adaptation.
- Pakistan's capital stock and efficiency of public investment are currently low, posing challenges in dealing with climate-related issues.
- Policymakers are urged to improve transparency in budget documents, providing comprehensive information on climate-related actions and investments.

MCQs from the Article:

1. **What is the primary advice from the IMF to Pakistan regarding climate resilience?**
 - A. Increase bureaucracy
 - B. Utilize resources effectively for climate-resilient infrastructure**
 - C. Seek financial aid

D. Reduce public investments

2. **According to the World Bank, what percentage of GDP may be lost by Pakistan due to climate change impacts by 2050?**
 - A. 2-4%
 - B. 6.5-9%**
 - C. 12-15%
 - D. 20-25%

3. **What is emphasized as crucial for the next budget by the IMF?**
 - A. Military expenditure
 - B. Climate adaptation planning and investment portfolios**
 - C. Social welfare programs
 - D. Infrastructure development

4. **What were the economic losses from last year's floods in Pakistan?**
 - A. \$10 billion
 - B. Over \$30 billion**
 - C. \$15 billion
 - D. \$20 billion

5. **What is identified as a current challenge for Pakistan in dealing with climate-related issues?**
 - A. High capital stock
 - B. Low capital stock and efficiency of public investment**
 - C. Transparent budget documents
 - D. Excessive climate-related spending

VOCABULARY:

1. **Resilient** (adjective) (□□□□□): Able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions.



2. **Mitigation** (noun) (□□□): The action of reducing the severity, seriousness, or painfulness of something.

3. **Adaptation** (noun) (□□□□□): The action or process of adapting or being adapted to a new environment, situation, or change.

4. **Inertia** (noun) (□□□□): A tendency to do nothing or to remain unchanged.

5. **Ad-hocism** (noun) (□□□□ □□□ □□□□□): The tendency to address situations or to solve problems as they arise rather than following a consistent plan or policy.

6. **Urgent** (adjective) (□□□□): Requiring immediate action or attention.

7. **Enhance** (verb) (□□□□□□□): Intensify, increase, or further improve the quality, value, or extent of.

8. **Foster** (verb) (□□□□ □□□□□): Encourage the development of something, especially something desirable.

9. **Pivotal** (adjective) (□□□□): Of crucial importance in relation to the development or success of something else.

10. **Proactively** (adverb) (□□ □□□□□□): Taking initiative and anticipating events or problems, acting in advance rather than reacting.

11. **Capacity Building** (noun) (□□□□□□ □□□□□□): The process by which individuals, organizations, and societies develop their abilities to perform functions, solve problems, and set and achieve objectives.



12. **Attract** (verb) (आकर्षित करना): Cause to come to a place or participate in a venture by offering something of interest, favorable conditions, or advantage.
13. **Alignment** (noun) (संरेखण): Arrangement in a straight line or in correct relative positions.
14. **Consequential** (adjective) (परिणामी): Following as a result or effect.
15. **Policymaker** (noun) (नीति निर्माता): Someone involved in the formulation or assessment of policies, especially political ones.
16. **Demonstrable** (adjective) (प्रमाणित): Clearly apparent or capable of being logically proved.
17. **Alleviating** (verb) (आलिंगित): Making (suffering, deficiency, or a problem) less severe.
18. **Catastrophe** (noun) (व्यथित): An event causing great and sudden damage or suffering; a disaster.
19. **Immediate** (adjective) (तत्काल): Occurring or done at once; instant.
20. **Adapt** (verb) (अनुकूलित): Make (something) suitable for a new use or purpose; modify.

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Climate resilience
Editorial

THE IMF's advice to Pakistan to use its resources more effectively and efficiently to build a climate-resilient infrastructure and strengthen its ability to attract climate finance is timely. Pakistan is among the countries most vulnerable to the impact of climate change and the authorities are looking for international support to meet their climate finance targets. Formulating sound public investment policies and aligning them with national climate adaptation and mitigation goals would be a step in the right direction. The Fund wants the next budget to be a "turning point" for planning mechanisms and investment portfolios based on climate adaptation. At the moment, Pakistan's capital stock and efficiency of public investment are low. The IMF has underscored the need for improving transparency on climate-related actions in the budget documents by providing information on key aspects of the public investment programme. It wants the Planning Commission, together with the finance ministry, to come up with a proposal that, after approval, can be included in the next budget, and is encouraging the government to publish its climate-related spending for the ongoing fiscal year.

Pakistan has experienced several climate disasters caused by global warming. The World Bank's Country Climate and Development Report has estimated that 6.5-9pc of GDP will likely be lost by 2050 to climate change, unless the challenge to lessen the impact of increased floods and heatwaves, which are reducing farm yields, destroying infrastructure and lowering labour productivity, is addressed. Last year's devastating floods, which displaced millions of people in the country and wiped out crops and infrastructure worth over \$30bn, sharply demonstrate the need for greater investments in climate-resilient infrastructure. With



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temperatures rising and unpredictable rainfall patterns increasing the risk of floods, cyclones, droughts and heatwaves, it is imperative our policymakers formulate sound development policies to mitigate the risk. Transparent investments based on demonstrable needs in climate-resilient infrastructure are crucial to alleviating the impact of climate change and the increasing natural disasters the country is witnessing.

Unfortunately, in spite of significant understanding among policymakers about the threats presented by rapid global warming to economic and financial stability, it is disappointing to find that the country is least prepared to deal with the fallout of climate change. Pakistan's people and its economy have suffered massively due to bureaucratic inertia, policy ad-hocism, and a reactionary response to climate disasters. Notwithstanding the official claims, no concerted effort has thus far been made to plan and align public investments with national climate mitigation and adaptation goals. With Pakistan just one more natural disaster away from yet another human and economic catastrophe, it is critical to ensure climate resilience of the economy through sound climate-related public investment management.

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