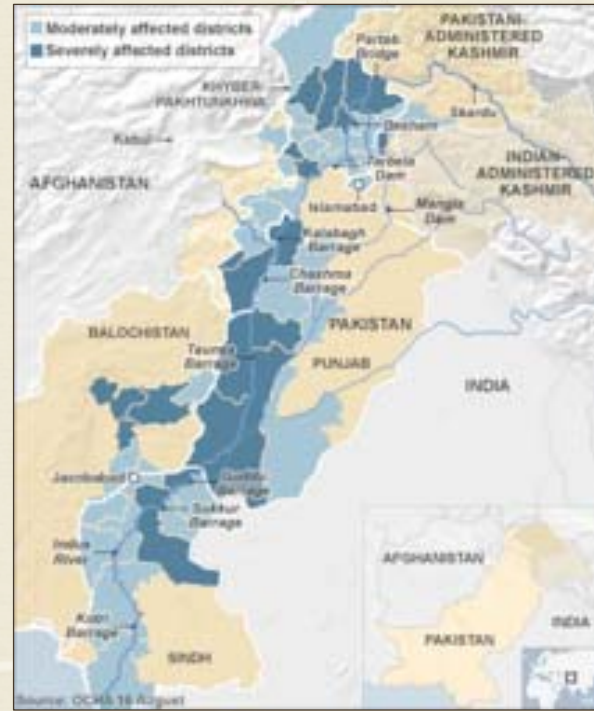


OVERVIEW :

The 2010 floods in the Indus recorded as the largest in history, forces us to re-examine on how we manage and live with the river. Although widely devastating, such events also provide an opportunity to study and learn how extreme climate events affect people, and to generate knowledge on how one could start learning to adapt to such events. A large part of this question is also to understand the factors that make people vulnerable to such events and then provide answers to how one could plan to rebuild in a way that those vulnerabilities are minimized in one of the largest recovery effort in Pakistan's history.

Prior research on hazards in Pakistan has demonstrated that vulnerability to hazards is constructed along class and gender inequalities and is embedded in everyday geographies of access to resources, state policies and social power (Halvorson 2002 & 2003). The situation is further complicated by the impending uncertainty that climate change will bring. Therefore, the need for informed research based policy reformulation on flood hazards and vulnerability in Pakistan has become more urgent than ever. Such research must focus on social aspects and political economy of floods in the Indus basin outside the sphere of irrigation management per se, since there is a massive knowledge gap on performance of other systems that help build resilience of marginalised populations. Attention needs to be given to how marginalised groups in the population are threatened by major flood events and how floods affect their access to gateway services such as land, water, communication, energy etc.



Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET)
No. 8, St.1, F-8/3, Islamabad, Pakistan
Phone: + (92) 51 2552188,
Fax: + (92) 51 2855756
Email: admin@isetpk.org
Web: www.isetpk.org

in collaboration with:



INDUS FLOODS RESEARCH



POST INDUS FLOODS RESEARCH

Scoping long-term research agenda for climate change adaptation in the Indus basin through local embedded capacities

OBJECTIVES :

The general objective of this research is to generate knowledge on climate related hazards in the Indus basin in Pakistan and their impact on marginalised communities so that the specific causes for their vulnerability in terms of gateway services and access to these services can be identified and strategies to build resilience may be developed.

The core objectives of the research are as follows:

- (i) to understand the impact and issues in recovery and reconstruction through a rapid synthesis of various situational reports, real time evaluations and other material (newspaper articles etc.) post floods;
- (ii) to map the relief effort in terms of key actors and institutions in post Indus floods (who is doing what, where, with what resources and capacities);
- (iii) to inform the government's proposed build back better program with knowledge generated through secondary data analysis of ISET's work in the region and globally
- (iv) to understand what happened and why along a transect in the Indus Basin with key stakeholders facilitated by RSPN and other local organisations in Pakistan.
- (v) to help establish ISET-Pakistan as formal link with international ISET partners and facilitate strategic regional learning alliances and policy dialogues particularly across trans-boundary rivers

ACTIVITIES :

The research project focuses heavily on flooding, because of the immediate challenges posed by the events in 2010. The research support phase of the program will focus on documenting the factors that contribute to the resilience of core gateway systems. It will also identify key failures and risks in the contexts of floods. The program will have the following components:

1. Review and analysis of situation reports that have already been undertaken by various agencies in the wake of the 2010 floods.
2. Institutional mapping of the relief and reconstruction effort.
3. Compilation of useful lessons for climate resilience building through prior and on-going work under ISET projects in Pakistan and in the Region.
4. Organising consultations and shared learning dialogues (SLDs) in four selected areas along the Indus transect (see map overleaf) to scope for research and build capacities of regional rural support programs to undertake a longer term adaptation research in collaboration with RSPN.
5. Establish linkage with other organizations for partnership to develop the larger research program.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS :

As currently envisioned the deliverables from the project will consist of:

- 1) Production of rapid recommendations (based on ISET network's and other work adaptation in South and South East Asia) on courses of action that could contribute to build climate resilience as part of the reconstruction effort in Pakistan. The core goal in this deliverable will be to build factors that build resilience into reconstruction by avoiding actions that may be maladaptive.
- 2) A scoping report that will contain results from the field research. This report will be developed into a peer-reviewed paper for publication. The intention is to allow knowledge from this process to feed into the global processes such as the IPCC, concerning the implication of climatic event of such a scale.
- 3) A detailed proposal by ISET-Pakistan and other organisations for future research on key emerging issues such as agricultural, food and water security in the context of climate variability. This may include a proposal for a program for piloting resilience building planning and implementation as prepared for Community Adaptation Plan of Action - Nepal
- 4) Establishing of ISET-Pakistan as a fully operational research organization within the ISET network.