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Floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inflict Heavy Economic Losses, Relief Operations Underway

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– *Categories: Economics*

Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said Tuesday that relief operations are continuing in flood-hit districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but officials and analysts warn that the economic impact of the disaster is already severe.

Since late June, torrential monsoon rains, flash floods, and landslides have killed nearly 670 people nationwide, according to official figures. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has suffered the highest toll, recording at least 341 fatalities in the most recent spell of rain that began last week. Beyond the tragic loss of life, the region is grappling with the destruction of homes, roads, and farmland, raising concerns about livelihoods and food security.

The NDMA confirmed that multiple consignments of aid have been dispatched to affected areas, including Swat and Shangla districts. The shipments contain tents, blankets, generators, dewatering pumps, ration bags, and medicines. Relief work is being carried out in coordination with the military and local authorities.

Economists note that the damage to critical infrastructure could run into billions of rupees. Early assessments from provincial officials suggest that roads, bridges, and power supply systems have been washed away in several districts, delaying transport of goods and disrupting markets. Local businesses, particularly small traders and farmers, are reporting heavy losses as crops and livestock have been swept away.

In Buner district alone, where more than 150 people remain missing after flash floods struck last Friday, agricultural land has been inundated. Experts warn that the destruction will likely reduce local harvests in the coming months, worsening inflationary pressures on food. Pakistan's economy, already under strain from high prices and slow growth, faces additional stress as the cost of rebuilding and providing assistance rises.

Authorities in Gilgit-Baltistan have also reported infrastructure losses, with remote valleys cut off due to landslides. Rescue teams are working to reopen blocked roads to restore supply chains and reconnect communities.

The NDMA has issued fresh warnings of further flooding after new rainfall began on Sunday, urging residents to take precautions. Officials emphasized the need for stronger investment in flood-resilient infrastructure and disaster preparedness to minimize recurring economic shocks.

While immediate relief remains the focus, economists stress that the long-term financial cost of climate-driven disasters like these will continue to undermine Pakistan's growth prospects unless systemic reforms are implemented.