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## Deadly Rains Sweep Pakistan's Punjab, Flash Floods Trigger Emergency

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Torrential monsoon rains have wreaked havoc across Pakistan's Punjab province, leaving at least 63 people dead and nearly 300 injured in just 24 hours. The province has experienced an extraordinary surge in rainfall, 124% above average for July, prompting authorities to declare a "rain emergency" as rivers overflow, homes collapse, and rescue operations intensify.

The rainfall has been especially severe in cities such as Lahore, Chakwal, and Rawalpindi. In Chakwal alone, as much as 423 mm of rain fell in a single day, overwhelming infrastructure

and triggering flash floods that swept away roads and flooded entire neighborhoods. With water levels rising rapidly, many residents were forced to flee their homes, often with little warning.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has deployed military rescue teams and boats to affected areas, with a focus on severely hit districts. Meanwhile, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is leading overall relief efforts, issuing flood alerts across vulnerable regions, and urging the public to avoid travel. Helicopters are also being used to reach families stranded in remote or submerged areas.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), rainfall between July 1 and 15 has been 124% higher than last year's figures in Punjab, while the national average is 82% above the long-term norm. The extreme weather has claimed over 170 lives across the country since June 26 and damaged infrastructure, crops, and homes on a large scale.

This catastrophe is unfolding in a country still recovering from the devastating 2022 floods, which killed more than 1,700 people and submerged one-third of Pakistan's land. The scale and frequency of such weather events are increasing, fueled by climate change and exacerbated by the country's limited flood defenses, outdated drainage systems, and lack of urban planning. Experts warn that unless comprehensive climate adaptation measures are taken, Pakistan will continue to suffer from such recurring disasters.

The government has activated emergency shelters and is distributing food, water, and medical aid to displaced families. However, with more rain forecast in the coming days, the situation remains dire. Authorities are racing against time to reinforce embankments, evacuate at-risk populations, and restore access to essential services in affected regions.

Pakistan's vulnerability to erratic monsoon patterns highlights the broader challenge facing many South Asian nations: how to cope with the accelerating impacts of climate change with limited resources. As the world watches, Pakistan's crisis serves as a stark reminder of the need for urgent climate action, international support, and investment in resilient infrastructure.