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## Monsoon Devastation Claims 13 More Lives, Death Toll Hits 216

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Heavy monsoon rains have unleashed chaos across Pakistan, claiming 13 more lives in the past 24 hours, bringing the total death toll to 216 since June 26, according to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). This article explores the ongoing crisis, highlighting the devastating impact of flooding and structural collapses, particularly in Punjab, and the urgent need for robust disaster preparedness.

The relentless downpours have battered Pakistan, with Punjab province bearing the brunt, reporting 135 deaths. The NDMA notes that four

children and three women were among the latest victims, underscoring the tragedy's toll on vulnerable populations. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) follows with 42 fatalities, Sindh with 21, Balochistan with 16, and one each in Islamabad and Azad Kashmir. Most deaths stem from collapsing roofs in poorly constructed homes, a stark reminder of the nation's infrastructure challenges. As torrential rains flood streets and homes, the government's response has been criticized as sluggish, leaving citizens to fend for themselves in waterlogged chaos.

Urban areas like Hyderabad have seen commuters wading through flooded streets, a scene repeated across Pakistan's low-lying regions. The NDMA warns that the monsoon's fury, worsened by climate change, shows no signs of abating. Experts point to rapid urban expansion and outdated drainage systems as exacerbating the crisis, turning seasonal rains into deadly deluges. "The government is not doing enough for rescue," said Ranjeev Kumar, a 65-year-old Patna resident, echoing frustrations in neighboring India's flood-hit areas. Pakistan's authorities, however, claim to have deployed rescue teams, though overwhelmed by the scale of destruction.

The monsoon, vital for crop irrigation, has become a double-edged sword. While it replenishes water supplies, its increasing intensity—linked to erratic weather patterns—demands stronger infrastructure and proactive governance. The NDMA's advisories urge residents to avoid flood-prone areas, but without adequate shelters or timely evacuations, many remain at risk. As Pakistan grapples with this crisis, the rising death toll serves as a grim call for accountability and investment in resilient systems to protect lives and livelihoods from nature's wrath.