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## Monsoon Devastation Prompts PM Sharif's Response

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Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has called for an urgent review of the human and material losses caused by heavy monsoon rains in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). The directive comes as the national death toll from monsoon-related incidents has reached 299 since the start of the season on June 26.

Presiding over a high-level meeting in Islamabad, the Prime Minister instructed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and provincial authorities to expedite relief operations. He stressed the importance of restoring essential infrastructure, providing emergency aid to affected communities, and ensuring transparent assessment and reporting of damages.

Both GB and AJK have witnessed widespread flash floods and landslides, isolating remote villages and cutting off critical road links. Disruptions to power and communication lines have further complicated the delivery of aid. Local officials report that emergency shelters are reaching capacity, with urgent needs focused on clean water, food supplies, and medical assistance.



The Prime Minister directed all relevant departments to maintain close coordination and ensure the rapid deployment of relief teams. Special focus is being placed on rehabilitation efforts and long-term infrastructure resilience in affected regions.

Authorities are working to collect accurate data to inform the fair distribution of relief and to support future disaster planning. The government aims to mitigate further harm through swift action and improved inter-agency cooperation.

This year's monsoon season has again exposed Pakistan's vulnerability to natural disasters, particularly in mountainous regions. While the immediate focus remains on relief and recovery, officials have reiterated the need for sustained investment in emergency response systems and durable infrastructure.

The federal response is being closely monitored as affected communities await continued support and reconstruction in the weeks ahead.

