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Tourist Family Identified After Tragic Flash Flood at Babusar Top

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A devastating flash flood at Babusar Top swept away a tourist family from Lodhran, now identified as Dr. Mashal Fatima, her brother-in-law Fahad Islam, and her three-year-old son Abdul Hadi, among others. The July 22, 2025, disaster in Gilgit-Baltistan's Diamer district claimed lives and left many missing, exposing Pakistan's unpreparedness for extreme weather. This article delves into the tragedy, the ongoing rescue efforts, and the systemic failures that amplify such catastrophes.

The cloudburst at Babusar Top, a popular tourist route connecting Kaghan Valley to Chilas, triggered flash floods that washed away vehicles, including the family's coaster. Local residents recovered personal belongings, identifying Dr. Mashal, a doctor, Fahad Islam, and young Abdul Hadi, whose body was found three days later near Dasar, per The

Express Tribune. Gilgit-Baltistan Scouts retrieved the child's remains, as reported by Dawn News. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Attaullah Kakar confirmed seven bodies recovered, with seven others still missing, and over 200 tourists rescued to Chilas. "Locals provided shelter and food," said social worker Muhammad Ali to Dawn.com, highlighting community resilience amid chaos.

The scale of destruction, damaged roads, bridges, and a girls' school, underscores Pakistan's vulnerability to climate-driven disasters. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) reported 7-8 kilometers of Babusar Road obliterated, with landslides blocking access. The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) warned of ongoing risks of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) and landslides in Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Yet, as Faizullah Faraq, Gilgit-Baltistan spokesperson, noted, rescue efforts were hampered by nightfall and severed communication lines, per ARY News. This tragedy isn't isolated, monsoon rains have killed 221 across Pakistan, per Geo.tv.

Pakistan's tourism boom in the north demands better infrastructure and early warning systems. The government's reactive measures, like deploying Pakistan Army helicopters, are commendable but insufficient. Decades of neglecting climate-resilient planning have left scenic routes like Babusar deadly traps. Without robust investment in infrastructure and forecasting, such losses will persist, leaving families shattered and Pakistan's natural beauty a perilous lure.