



Climate
Resilience
Alliance



 **COUNTRY BRIEF**

Pakistan

October 2025

 Concern Worldwide

Pakistan

Who we are

The Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance works with communities to influence policies and practices which enhance resilience to climate hazards.

Our definition of resilience

The Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance

understands the concept of climate resilience

as: The ability of a system, community or society to pursue its social, ecological and economic development and growth objectives, while managing its climate risks over time in a mutually reinforcing way.

Our vision

Our vision is a world where communities are resilient to climate hazards, enabling them to thrive.

Our goal

By 2035, alongside like-minded organizations, we aspire to positively impact 70 million people vulnerable to climate change, and 5.5 million by 2027.

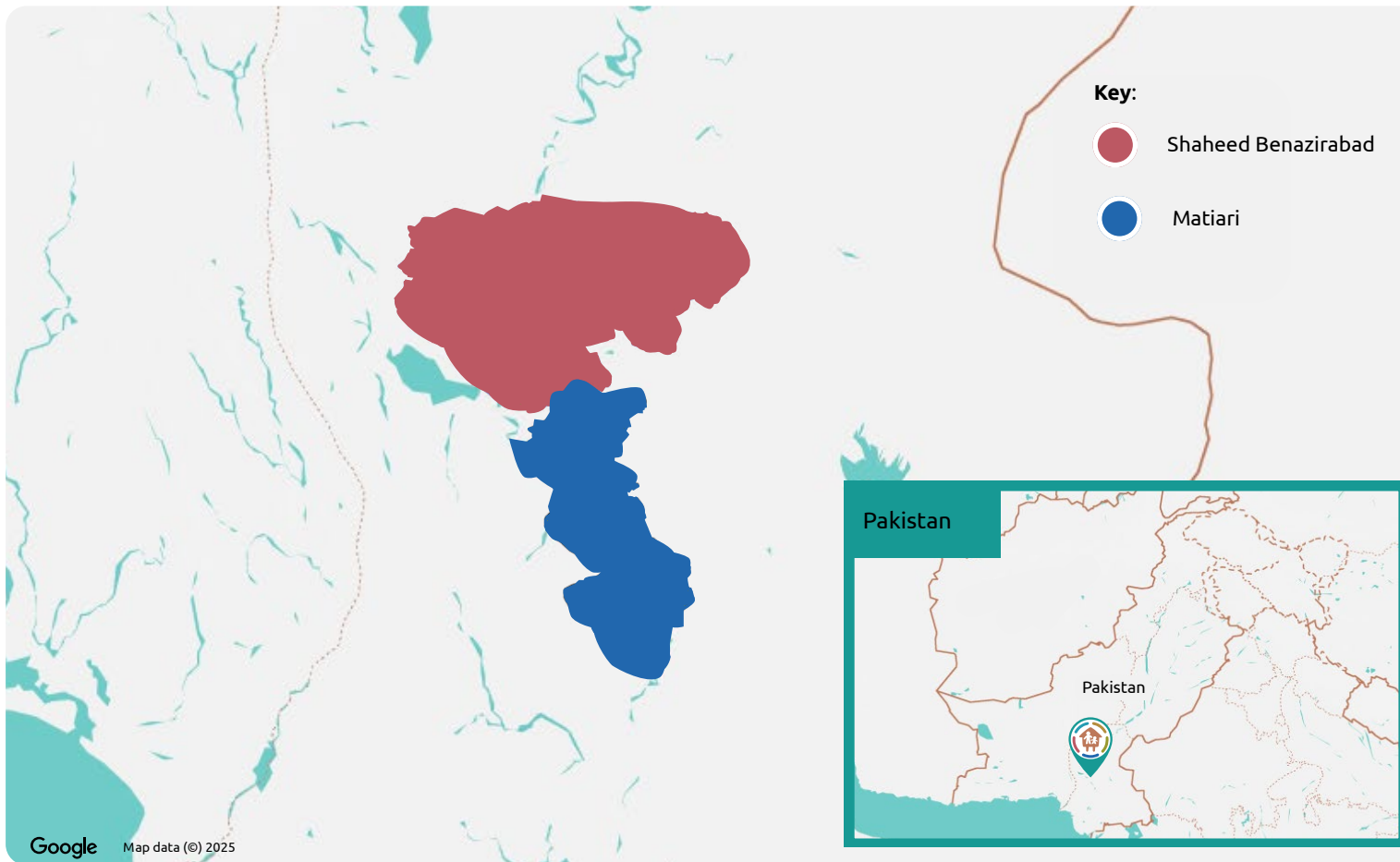
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Find out more about the Alliance's
work in Pakistan 

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Impact of floods and heatwaves in Pakistan

Since 2010, Pakistan has faced increasingly severe climate-induced disasters, despite contributing less than 1 per cent to global greenhouse gas emissions. Ranked consistently among the top 10 most climate-vulnerable countries by the Global Climate Risk Index, Pakistan endures a cycle of floods, droughts, heatwaves, and glacial hazards. The retreat of Himalayan glaciers has escalated the risk of glacial lake outburst floods, particularly in regions like Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Rising temperatures are accelerating glacier melt and intensifying the severity of monsoon-driven flash floods downstream.

Sindh remains highly exposed to climate extremes. The 2022 floods submerged nearly one-third of the province, displacing millions, destroying over 2 million hectares of standing crops, and wiping out essential infrastructure, contributing significantly to the estimated US\$10 bn in national economic losses. Recurrent heatwaves, increasingly intense in Sindh's districts such as Shaheed Benazirabad (SB), Sanghar, Jacobabad, Dadu, and Sukkur, have become life threatening, pushing temperatures beyond 50°C, impacting health systems, reducing labour productivity, and damaging key crops such as wheat, rice, and cotton. Karachi, as a major urban centre, experiences compounded impacts due to the urban heat island effect, poor air quality, and limited

green spaces. The convergence of extreme heat, erratic rainfall, and glacial melt demands urgent, integrated climate resilience strategies. These must include localized early warning systems, sustainable water management, and nature-based solutions (Nbs).



Livestock died, houses damaged during 2022 flood need assessment - Balochistan.
Photo: Shafqat Ullah Senior Technical Advisor Livelihoods Concern Pakistan.

Alliance partners working in Pakistan

Concern Worldwide is an international humanitarian organization that strives for a world free from poverty, fear, and oppression. They deliver life-saving and life-changing interventions to the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. Concern Worldwide believes the climate crisis is the most serious global environmental threat and is a significant risk multiplier. Operational in Pakistan since 2001, Concern Worldwide is implementing humanitarian and long-term development/resilience-building programmes across all four provinces, as well as Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Concern Worldwide's major value addition includes deep and broad knowledge of the context globally and, particularly in Pakistan, skills in evidence-based climate change and resilience-building programme design, rigorous evaluation and evidence generation, and cultivation and management of productive partnerships with local NGOs and the private sector. For last 24 years, Concern Worldwide has been implementing various climate resilience-building programmes across Pakistan with funding from institutional donors that include the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, the United States Agency for International Development/Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, the Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance, the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, Irish Aid, United Nations agencies, and the private sector. Concern Worldwide is known for its value-added partnership with federal, provincial, and district governments in the sectors of climate resilience, community-based disaster risk management (DRM), food security and livelihoods, nutrition, and humanitarian responses. Concern Worldwide has partnerships with academia, research organizations,

and private sector institutes for programme quality and sustainability.

Concern Worldwide will be working with 20 most vulnerable communities mostly affected with floods (riverine and flash) and heatwaves each year.

Alliance objectives in Pakistan



Strengthened DRM system: community resilience to climate risks is enhanced by improving stakeholder capacity for effective DRM, updating early warning and action systems, and strengthening environmental risk-management strategies.



Strengthened NbS system: an enabling environment is created for community-based NbS practices, natural resource management, and climate smart villages, supported by knowledge hubs and collaboration with academia to promote climate-smart practices.

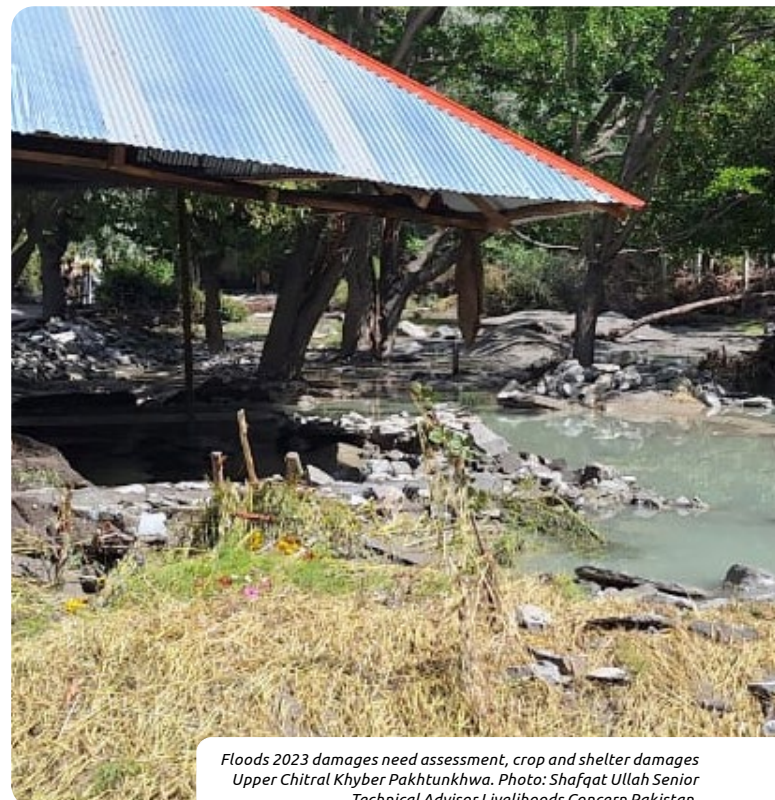


Improved access to functional market systems: local community resilience is enhanced through improved financial access and the development of sustainable and resilient market and recovery systems.

Climate Resilience Measurement for Communities (CRMC)

The Climate Resilience Measurement for Communities (CRMC) is a data-driven process, complemented by a web-based tool and mobile app, which helps communities to evaluate and measure how resilient they are to climate hazards. Using the results, they can identify and implement resilience-building interventions and run additional measurements to track improvements.

Find out more: ZCRAlliance.org/crmc



Floods 2023 damages need assessment, crop and shelter damages Upper Chitral Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Photo: Shafqat Ullah Senior Technical Advisor Livelihoods Concern Pakistan.

The communities we are working with

SB and Sanghar districts are situated in the semi-arid plains of Sindh and are increasingly facing the brunt of **climate-induced disasters**, especially **extreme heatwaves, erratic rainfall patterns, and frequent flash floods**. These events have become more intense and frequent due to climate change, severely affecting the lives and livelihoods of already vulnerable farming communities that rely heavily on seasonal agriculture and livestock rearing. The **2022 floods** had a devastating impact on both the SB and Sanghar areas, destroying standing crops, displacing families, and damaging water channels, roads, and infrastructure, compounding poverty and food insecurity in the region.

Unlike the high-altitude vulnerabilities seen in northern Pakistan, **communities in Sindh face chronic water stress, heat stress, soil degradation, and lack of resilient infrastructure**. Farmers struggle with depleting groundwater tables, shrinking growing seasons, and increased pest and disease outbreaks due

to temperature extremes. Concern Worldwide's approach empowers communities to take ownership of their development pathways, builds social capital, and strengthens local resilience systems. Concern Worldwide has had a presence in Sindh since 2009, working with vulnerable communities through local NGO partners. During the devastating 2022 floods and other disasters, Concern Worldwide has worked with extremely vulnerable communities through relief and rehab responses in these target areas. In SB and Sanghar, Concern Worldwide implemented small-scale humanitarian and early recovery projects, which included village-level resilience planning, demonstrations of adaptation models, including NbS activities (climate smart agriculture, farmer field schools), youth empowerment, and resilience building through market-based economic opportunities, especially for females and marginalized communities.

Duration of the Pakistan Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance programme: January 2025–December 2027

The Alliance website

- Our website shares practical knowledge alongside the latest evidence and research about how to build community resilience to climate hazards.
- We share knowledge generated through the Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance's work across the world, as well as from many other sources of evidence.

Find out more: ZCRAlliance.org

Get in touch

If you have any questions, contact:
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For more information, visit:
ZCRAlliance.org/countries/pakistan

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The Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance is a multi-sectoral partnership, powered by the Z Zurich Foundation, focused on enhancing resilience to climate hazards in both rural and urban communities. By implementing solutions, promoting good practice, influencing policy and facilitating systemic change, we aim to ensure that all communities facing climate hazards are able to thrive. [Find out more at ZCRAlliance.org](https://ZCRAlliance.org)

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