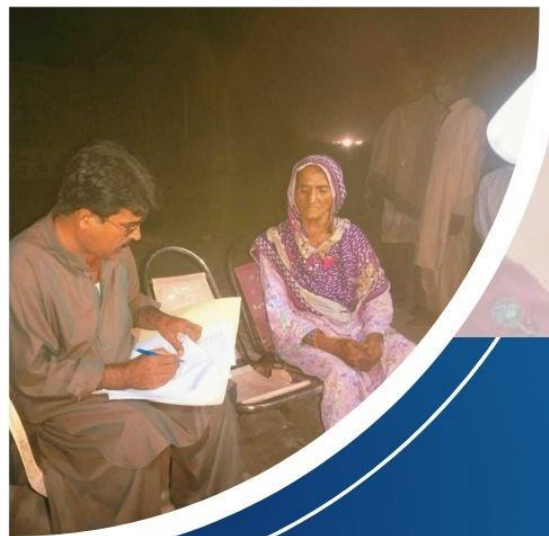
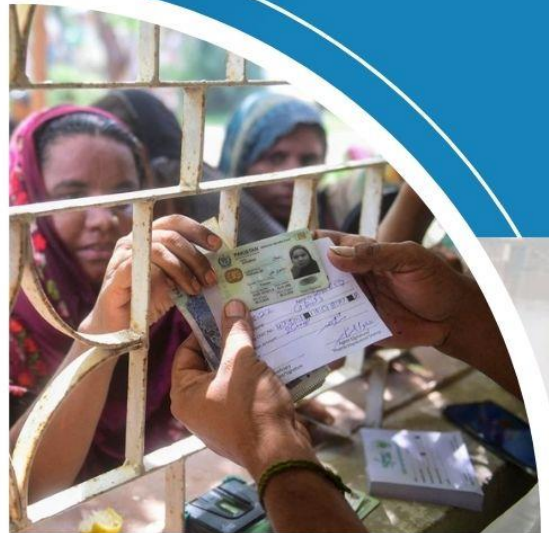


Assessment of the Adverse Impacts of Floods on Electoral Participation



December, 2023

Title: Assessment of the Adverse Impacts of Floods on Electoral Participation

Research and Author/s: Naseer Memon

Production: Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI)

No. of Copies Published: 250

ISBN: 978-969-2227-33-9

Disclaimer:

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the contents of this publication. CPDI does not accept responsibility for any omissions as it is not deliberate. Nevertheless, we will appreciate the provision of accurate information to improve our work.



Contents

Acronyms

Acknowledgments

Executive Summary	1
Literature Review	2
1. Background	6
2. Scope of the study	7
3. Methodology	7
4. Key issues identified by communities and key informants.....	8
5. Stakeholder Consultations	11
6. Meetings with decision-makers	13
7. Key Recommendations	15
8. Challenges	15
Annexures:	16
Annex.1 District-wise findings.....	17
Annex.2 Maps of Districts	39
Annex.3 Filed Tool for FGDs and KIIs.....	40

Acronyms

CNIC	Computerised National Identity Card
IDEA	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FIR	First Information Report
KII	Key Informant's Interview
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NADRA	National Database and Registration Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PDMA	Provincial Disaster Management Authority
PNDA	Post Disaster Need Assessment
PKR	Pakistani Rupee
UC	Union Council
UN	United Nations

Acknowledgments:

The Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) extends its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the individuals who have contributed to the successful completion of this report, titled “Assessment of the Adverse Impacts of Floods on Electoral Participation”.

Mr. Naseer Memon: We thank Mr. Naseer Memon for his efforts in authoring this report.

Ms. Moonus Kayinat Zahra: We acknowledge the significant contribution of Ms. Moonus Kainat Zahra for her diligent review. Her feedback has contributed significantly to the accuracy of the report.

Ms. Nowsheen Khurram: We express our gratitude to Ms. Nowsheen Khurram for her diligent review of the data input and fixing anomalies. We also acknowledge her input in giving visual representation to the data and report.

Mr. Muhammad Bashir: Our thanks to Mr. Muhammad Bashir for modifying the contents and redesigning the final report to make it more creative after editing.

Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali, Executive Director, CPDI, we are deeply grateful to Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali for his expert guidance and leadership throughout the process of preparing this report. His insights and directions have been invaluable in ensuring the relevance and quality of the report.

Executive Summary

In 2022, Pakistan witnessed an apocalyptic flood with devastating consequences. Sindh and Balochistan were the worst affected provinces. Loss of life, private property and public infrastructure & services were reported from several districts of both provinces. Sindh and Balochistan declared 24 and 32 districts calamity hit respectively.

Scale of the devastation was enormous that affected every walk of life. Post Disaster Need Assessment PDNA provides details of loss and damage in each sector of society. Balochistan suffered losses and damages of over \$4,000 million whereas Sindh suffered losses and damages at a staggering estimate of \$20,444 million.¹

Loss of lives and private property and public infrastructure has also bearing on electoral participation. Loss of CNICs, damaged access tracks and school buildings due to floods have potential implications on electoral participation. CNIC is a mandatory requirement to cast vote in elections. Similarly, school buildings are used as polling stations on the election days. Any loss to such facilities can potentially have impact on voter turnout.

This study captured such potential impacts of floods on electoral participation of communities. A series of structured engagements through focus group discussions, interviews of key informants and consultations with various stakeholders were conducted in four worst flood-hit districts of Sindh and Balochistan. Consultations included men, women, religious minorities, differently abled persons, and elderly people who belonged to a range of stakeholders e.g. academics, social workers, lawyers, traders, growers, writers, journalists etc.

These stakeholders identified loss of CNICs, damage to polling stations and access roads/tracks and out migration during floods as potential reasons that can affect electoral participation. Stakeholders also recommended necessary measures to overcome these challenges. Key concerns and recommendations highlighted by stakeholders were also shared with decision makers e.g., district administration officers, election commission officers and elected representatives.

The report provides details of these consultations, concerns raised, and recommendations shared by different stakeholders.

¹ Post Disaster Need Assessment Report, Planning Commission, Govt of Pakistan

Literature Review

Whereas floods of 2022 created an unprecedented havoc specially in Sindh and Balochistan it also generated a repository of multi-sectoral research reports by national and international aid agencies, research organisations and practitioners in the field of disaster management. The phenomenon is not unique to this part of the world as literature shows several other countries experienced similar situation during and after elections. The number of natural disasters, including floods and cyclones, has tripled in the last four decade. As climate change phenomenon is become more visible due to extreme weather events it is highly likely that electoral participation will more frequently be affected by natural disasters in future years. Several documents were reviewed to get an in-depth understanding of various impacts of floods in different countries. Literature review helped to conceptualise potential impacts of flood on citizens' participation in electoral process.

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) has identified 28 cases when natural hazards (hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and earthquakes) have impacted national and subnational elections in 19 countries from all regions of the globe. IDEA International's report "The Impact of Natural Hazards on Elections (January 2023) discussed postponement of 2nd phase of Local Government Elections in the Province of Sindh, August 2022. The report says "due to the deadly floods, the Government of Pakistan officially declared a national emergency on 25 August 2022 (IFRC 2022). The first phase of local government elections was held in 14 districts of Sindh on 10 June. The second phase was scheduled to be held in the provinces' Karachi and Hyderabad divisions on 24 July. Due to the extensive and deadly flooding, the administration had been engaged in rescue and relief operations. The flooding made the availability of polling staff, transportation of polling materials, and buildings for establishment of polling station difficult. The Pakistan election commission decided to postpone the election until the "normalization of situation in public interest" (Election Commission of Pakistan 2022). Elections took place 15 January 2023 (Sadozai 2023). The voter turnout was unusually low for the second phase of voting (Free and Fair Election Network 2023). The turnout varied between divisions, with Hyderabad having a turnout of slightly over 40 percent, down from 58 percent in the last local government election (Free and Fair Election Network 2023), and Karachi having less than 20 percent voter turnout, down from 36 percent (Fair and Free Elections Network 2023)." Although there were myriad factors could be attributed to this low turnout but postponement of elections due to flood also impacted the electoral process.

The same document also reported Virginia Gubernatorial elections held after Hurricane Juan of 1985. Hurricane Juan developed over the Gulf of Mexico and made landfall along the Louisiana coast on 28 October. By 4 November, 4-14 inches (10-35cm) of rain dropped within 24 hours over eastern West. This massive rainfall resulted in record-breaking coastal floods and inland flooding that prevented voters from going out to vote (Wilder 2015). Based on previous turnouts, about 1.63 million voters were expected to vote, but only 1.38 million voters did so, which was partly attributed to floods and heavy rain (Sabato 1985). Several counties saw their lowest voter turnout records ever (Sabato 1985).

Another experience to quote is Cyclone Idai (March 2019) that made landfall in central Mozambique on the night of 14-15 March 2019. It later moved to Malawi and killed more than 600 people and impacted around 860,000 people. Approx. 85,000 lost their homes and were forced to evacuate and live in camps and makeshift settlements (European Commission 2019). Due to the flooding, those affected lost their ID cards and voter registration cards. The cyclone also impacted the infrastructure

that was available in the country, causing areas to become inaccessible, and complicating electoral preparations and operations. During the campaign period, candidates stated that they were unable to get their messages across to would-be supporters living in evacuation camps (Masina 2019).

Japan's Tsunami is another reference point. A magnitude-9.0 earthquake struck the north-eastern coast of Honshu not only causing widespread damage on land but also instigating a series of large tsunamis devastating many coastal areas, most notably in the Tohoku region. The tsunami further instigated a major nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi plant (Britannica 2022). The Prime Minister, Naoto Kan, declared a state of nuclear power emergency on 11 March 2011 and an estimated 3,000 residents moved out (Deutsche Welle 2011; McCurry 2011a). It is estimated around 18,500 people were killed in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami. Four years after the disaster, some 230,000 people were still displaced, many due to the continuation of the evacuation zone around the Fukushima plant (Britannica 2022). Amid this situation the unified elections took place on 10 and 24 April 2011. However, elections in certain municipalities hard-hit by the earthquake and tsunami would be postponed to August, September, and November 2011. Displacement after the earthquake and tsunami made voter registration before the election difficult. Political information such as information on candidates was not widely available for voters from the disaster areas. Voting was difficult on election day as some voters who were displaced to a new city/area did not replace their resident's cards and thus were unable to vote in a polling station near them (Kawamura 2012). The absence of polling stations created a spike in the number of absentee ballots. Officials extended the official campaign period by several days to allow displaced residents to make their decision and submit their ballot papers (McCurry 2011b).

A paper authored by Kosta Bovan, Benjamin Banai, and Irena Pavela Banai "Do Natural Disasters Affect Voting Behaviour? Evidence from Croatian Floods" discusses impact of floods on voting behaviour in the 2014 and 2015 elections. Voters from flooded areas decreased their support for the incumbent government and president in the elections following the floods. Using data on Hurricane Katrina, Sinclair, Hall and Alvarez showed that flooding decreased participation in the following election.

A research article "Disasters and Elections: Estimating the Net Effect of Damage and Relief in Historical Perspective" authored by Boris Heersink, Brenton D. Peterson and Jeffery A. Jenkins 9 Cambridge University Press: 03 April 2017) studied a case of catastrophic flooding in the American South in 1927, in which disaster aid was broadly and fairly distributed and Herbert Hoover (the 1928 Republican presidential candidate). He was personally responsible for overseeing the relief efforts. Despite the distribution of unprecedented levels of disaster aid, authors noted that voters punished Hoover at the polls. In the affected counties Hoover's vote share decreased by more than 10 percentage points.

Prof. Dr Stefan Voigt, University Universität Hamburg Institute for Law and Economics studied influence of the floodings in Germany (July 14 and 15, 2021) on the federal election on September 26, 2021, Katrin Hug. Since many people lost their homes due to the flood, postal vote was the only available possibility to cast a ballot for them. But even postal vote required an application for a ballot paper requiring some kind of infrastructure hence infrastructure was not available making even postal vote impossible.

Work by Lukas Rudolph & Patrick M. Kuhn (Mar 2017) "Natural Disasters and Political Participation: Evidence from the 2002 and 2013 Floods in Germany" discussed time lag between the disaster and elections. The authors conclude that the larger gap between flood and election in 2013 especially

allowed for disaster relief to be more effectively distributed and reconstruction to begin to a larger extent.

Experience of earthquake in Turkey (February 2023) provides valuable learning on the impact of a natural disaster on electoral process. Sevval Salman's paper "Managing elections after earthquakes – Challenges for Turkey-May 2023" highlights some challenges having parallels with Pakistan. Supreme Election Council of Turkey (YSK) took several measures to make voting more accessible and convenient to the citizens. YSK developed plans to establish hundreds of special polling stations made up of tents or containers to replace some of the destroyed buildings used as polling stations in the past. Moreover, the YSK enabled citizens who lost their primary identification documents (passport, driving license, national ID card) to vote with a three months valid temporary ID documentation provided through e-government gate. Furthermore, the YSK also launched a voter information campaign to enhance access to Mukhtar district's appealable voter lists and polling locations, especially for voters affected by the earthquake. Despite these contingency measures, some political actors, including the Izmir Bar Association President and the İYİ party's Antalya Deputy, were sceptical about voter registration and updating of the voting lists.

Domingos M. Rosario's case study "Cyclones and their effects on the 2019 elections in Mozambique" (September 2022) published by Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance highlights challenges endured by authorities. The disasters occurred right in the middle of the 2019 election. Mozambique had never experienced any disasters of this magnitude while organizing elections before and the public authorities found themselves in a difficult and uncertain situation as they searched for solutions. The registration brigades set up in the rural areas affected by the cyclones were unable to register voters due to a lack of electricity. In addition, displaced voters who had lost their identification documents were prevented from registering since they had no witnesses to confirm their identity. Even in resettled locations where they were known to the local administrative authorities, they found no community support to vouch for them. Even those who did manage to register did not receive their polling cards as printers constantly broke down. Finally, a reduced workforce and lack of funds prevented the local election authorities from stepping in to resolve technical issues such as broken printers or lack of mobile equipment.

Yogi Setya Permana's case study "Taming the twin hazards: Indonesia's 2020 Direct Local Election" (November 2022) published by Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance has indicated how elections were managed amid tidal flooding in Demak during voting day on 9 December 2020. The high rainfall exacerbated the tidal flood because the river also overflowed. More than 800,000 registered voters attended more than 2,000 polling stations across Demak District. The Chairperson of the Demak KPU said that 51 polling stations in Demak were affected by flooding (Budi 2022). Tidal floods inundated the access to the polling stations, and the water even flowed into the voters' waiting room. Tidal flooding had also occurred during the 2019 national election in Bawaslu Demak emphasized that there were several problems during the finalization of voter registration. Directly verifying voter data in the field was difficult due to the tidal floods, which had submerged the access to voters' houses. Tracking voters was also hampered because some people had evacuated or moved. The mechanism for moving or shifting polling stations is regulated in the KPU regulation on voting. The principle, emphasized by the respondent, is that the new polling station should not be far from the community: 'When you move it, the voters should be able to reach it easily' (Budi 2022).

Ferran Martinez I Coma documented a case study of managing elections in Victoria (Australia) during floods.

Victoria held state elections on 26 November 2022. Six weeks previously, the state which was home to over 6.6 million inhabitants and 4.4 million voters had suffered serious floods. It impacted the voter turnout which remained lower in 2022 (88.2 per cent) compared with 2018 (90.2 per cent). A decline of 2 percentage points does not seem much. But a comparison between the districts that were flooded and those that were not, shows an interesting pattern: the decline was significantly higher in those districts that were flooded. Specifically, within the un-flooded districts turnout declined an average of 1.4 percentage points (ranging from -1.78 to -1.05 points) while within the flooded districts the average decline was -2.1 percentage points (ranging between -2.3 and -1.83).

Available research indicates that even in developed countries, disasters affect electoral participation in different ways. Impact is severe when it comes to developing countries that are constrained by finances, technology, and infrastructure. The body of knowledge helped in designing the study and field tools of this research.

1. Background

In the summer of 2022, Pakistan experienced its wettest August since 1961. Sindh and Balochistan provinces were lashed by unprecedented rainfall, dwarfing average monthly rainfall by six and seven times, respectively. Research has shown that the five-day maximum rainfall of these two provinces was around 75 percent more intense than it would have been had the climate not warmed by 1.2°C. This indicates impact of climate change.² Resultantly, Sindh and Balochistan provinces witnessed epic floods of their recent history in 2022. The floods caused massive displacement, loss of lives and assets. More than 12 million people were rendered homeless in the two provinces. People lost most of their belongings including citizenship documents. Rehabilitation of these displaced people is still in process even after one year of the floods. The Post Disaster Need Assessment Report mentions Sindh and Balochistan as the worst hit areas.³

Effect	Sindh		Balochistan	
	KhairpurMirs	Naushahro Feroze	Naseerabad	Jaffarabad
No of person died	188	85	0	18
No of persons injured	60	61	2	0
No of persons affected	1,260,000	234,000	NA	NA
Livestock heads lost	34,000	36,000	2,300	3,700
Households damaged	277,000	148,000	13,000	37,000
Crop area affected (acres)	356,000	251,000	NA	129,000
Roads damaged (kms)	622	727	42	82

The devastating flood impacted communities in every walk of life including livelihoods, health, infrastructure, education, water & sanitation and shelter an important dimension of impact on communities' electoral participation didn't come under discussion. Loss of lives and private property and public infrastructure has also bearing on electoral participation. Loss of CNICs, damaged access tracks and school buildings due to floods have potential implications on electoral participation. CNIC is a mandatory requirement to cast vote in elections. Similarly, school buildings are used as polling stations on the election days. There were media reports of conflicts among communities during floods on the issues like evacuation of flood water and distribution of relief stuff. Such conflicts at times

² Deadly Floods in Pakistan linked to climate change, *Maryanne Buechner*

³ Source: *Daily Situation Report³ of PDMA Sindh, 11th April 2023, Strengthening Participatory Organisation, Balochistan*

snowball and can result in violence that may hinder access to polling stations for some communities. All these impacts of flood can have potential impact on electoral participation. This study was designed to focus on potential impact of flood on citizen's participation in electoral process. Pakistan's next general elections are expected to be held in February 2023.

2. Scope of the study

The study was aimed to identify factors that can potentially affect electoral participation of flood affected communities in four districts of Sindh and Balochistan (Khairpur Mirs, Naushahro Feroze, Naseerabad and Jaffarabad). The study was completed in one month. The field activities included conducting focus groups discussions, interviewing key informants, consultations with civil society groups and meetings with local authorities to apprise them of key findings of the study. The study findings will provide advocacy agenda to civil society and political parties to engage with the Election Commission of Pakistan and local administration to address factors that can restrict voters to cast their votes in the next general elections. The study captures various aspects such as damaged polling stations and road infrastructure to reach polling stations, loss of citizenship documents such as the CNICs, a mandatory requirement for casting vote and relocation/displacement of communities. ; Impact of floods on vulnerable groups like PWDs and religious minorities; the steps taken by authorities to address the challenges and any related gaps that require attention of decision makers at the provincial and federal levels; and the measures that could be taken to avert or timely address existing or similar challenges in future.

3. Methodology

The study was designed on identifying possible obstacles that the 2022 flood could create in electoral participation of communities in selected districts of Sindh and Balochistan. The study did not aim to capture numbers or exact extent of impact in numerical terms. The following steps were taken to conduct the field research.

- i. Extensive literature was reviewed to design the research. Various reports were reviewed on the floods of 2022 to grasp overall context and scale of disaster. Situation updates of PDMA's of Sindh and Balochistan and updates of different UN agencies and humanitarian organisations were also reviewed. This also helped in identifying worst hit districts to conduct this study. (Detailed note has been annexed).
- ii. Comprehensive field tools were developed based on literature review and local sources of information to cover all possible aspects of the impact of floods on electoral participation of the communities. The questionnaire covered aspects like loss of CNICs, damaged polling stations, out migration of communities due to floods.
- iii. Communities severely affected during the flood were identified in each district through local contacts to conduct research.
- iv. Three Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) and interviews of at least 6 key informants in each district were conducted through a structured approach. Information was compiled in qualitative terms. The participants were carefully selected to ensure participation of a diverse range of stakeholders. The participants included civil society groups, media, agriculturists, public servants, academia, business community, legal fraternity, and human rights workers. Women and other marginal groups (differently abled, elderly, transgender, religious minorities) were also consulted.

District	FDGs		KIIs		Stakeholder Consultations	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Naushahro Feroze	13	31	4	2	11	6
Khairpur Mirs	26	15	4	2	9	5
Naseerabad	57	0	5	1	10	0
Jaffarabad	68	14	5	1	18	0
Total	164	60	18	6	48	11

- v. A draft report was produced based on the information acquired through consultations.
- vi. Based on the information acquired through field activities, consultation sessions were held with a cross section of stakeholders in each district to validate the key findings. These stakeholders included social workers, women activists, journalists, teachers, lawyers etc.
- vii. Local administration elected representatives and offices of the Election Commission were also consulted to seek their inputs on their preparations to ensure smooth participation of communities in the electoral process.

4. Key issues identified by communities and key informants.

During extensive consultation in Sindh and Balochistan (FDGs, KIIs and Stakeholder consultations) that involved over 300 persons, the following prominent issues were highlighted that can negatively affect electoral participation.

Lost Computerised National Identity Cards (CNICs):

A significant number of people lost their Computerised National Identity Cards (CNICs) during floods. CNIC is a mandatory requirement for casting vote. A larger part of such people has got their cards replaced, however in many areas people were unable to get fresh CNICs. Community of village Dhani Bakhsh Samo (Naushahro Feroze reported that almost every household has at least one person who lost CNIC). Village Naseerabad of district Jaffarabad reported a large number of people who lost their NIC cards. Stakeholders shared that NADRA centres are over-crowded,



and it is not easy to get their renewed CNICs. This was particularly reported in Naushahro Feroze district. At initial stage, NADRA initiated mobile registration facility to provide CNICs to flood affectees in remote areas. Community in Khairpur Mirs mostly expressed their satisfaction that NADRA mobile vehicles were of immense help. However, the service was discontinued after some time. People in remote areas, especially women and elderly find it challenging to get their CNICs. In Naseerabad district of Balochistan two communities mentioned this challenge. Many flood affectees are daily wage earners and it is difficult for them to compromise their meagre income to visit NADRA centres for several days before they get their turn. Apart from CNICs damaged due to flood, there are instances where cards of people got expired and they couldn't get renewed cards due to flood situation. Authorities of Naushahro Feroze noted the issue with empathy and assured that the issue will be raised with relevant authorities. District Election Commissioner of Khairpur Mirs told that he will personally contact NADRA office to take special measures so that all eligible voters get their CNICs before elections.

Damaged School Buildings:

School buildings are among the most damaged public structures in the project districts. Sindh province reported approx. 40% school buildings damaged fully or partially. Polling stations are normally established in the school buildings. The stakeholders raised concern that if polling stations are relocated to other areas, it will be very difficult for them to reach at distant locations to cast their votes. This will become more challenging if the new polling stations are located at some distance from their existing polling stations. Distances will cause hardship for women, elderly, and differently abled people. Except for two communities, this issue was highlighted in all FDGs. The issue was severely reported by communities in district Naseerabad of Balochistan. With flood and rain damaged roads and increased transportation cost, relocation of polling station can negatively impact the voter turn-out. District administration in Khairpur Mirs told that the issue has already been raised at higher level and the same will be addressed. Additional Secretary of Sindh Education Dept confirmed that the provincial government has released special funds to repair all polling station schools before elections.

Flood-Damaged Road Infrastructure:

Several rural roads and access tracks have been washed away or badly damaged during floods. Several stakeholders told that due to damaged roads and access tracks, they will be constrained to take longer alternative routes to reach their polling stations. This will potentially have negative impact on voter turn-out if transport is not provided. This issue was echoed in all villages of all four districts in Sindh and Balochistan. Increased distances coupled by exorbitant transportation cost will discourage voters, especially women, elderly, differently abled and poor people to travel for casting their votes. Authorities were not sure about complete repair of all roads in flood affected areas because such projects were not directly under their purview.

Political Influence in Post-Flood Relief Operations:

Stakeholders shared that post-flood relief operation was unofficially controlled by local political elite at several places. At some locations stakeholders shared that relief distribution was also linked with promises of casting vote in favour of local influential. Hence there is a possibility that relief and rehabilitation of flood affected communities could be used as a tool to seek votes. This will be ensured through local henchmen who remained at forefront during relief distribution during and after flood disaster.

Rising Accidents Amidst Road Damage:

Several accidents during and after floods caused casualties in different areas. These casualties happened due to collapsed structures and accidents on flood-damaged roads. Unrepaired potholes on roads caused vehicular accidents particularly at nighttime. In some cases, injuries were so severe that caused temporary or permanent disability. In some areas stakeholders shared instances where injured people are bed-ridden or rendered immobile. These people are likely to lose right to cast their votes unless special arrangements are made to facilitate their electoral participation.

House Damage and Family Displacement:

Houses were damaged in a very large number in the project districts. This caused significant temporary displacement of families. Most of these families have repatriated after the flood water receded. However due to the long-time lag between displacement and repatriation, a sizeable number of families who migrated to distant urban areas managed some livelihood means at their new destinations. These people are engaged in wage labour or small-scale street businesses and have not returned to their villages. Since compensation to reconstruct houses has been received by a relatively small number of the affectees, many people are without proper shelter. Owners of such houses are still away from their villages. Due to financial constraints, there is a possibility that such low-income migrated families will not return to cast their votes. This issue was specially highlighted as severe in Naushahro Feroze district of Sindh and Jaffarabad district of Balochistan. During stakeholder consultations optimism was shown that the election candidates will make arrangements for displaced people to return for casting their votes.

**Inter-Community Conflicts:**

During flood and relief distribution community conflicts were reported in different areas. At times such conflicts escalate and restrict movement of communities into hostile areas where polling stations could be located. Skirmishes and conflicts were reported by the communities in the project districts however none of those conflicts were too serious to restrict electoral participation. Most of these conflicts were mediated and settled by local elders to avert any long-term feud.



Note: Details of these consultations are provided in the annexure 1

5. Stakeholder Consultations

After completing all FGDs and KIIs, a summary of key findings and recommendations was developed. The summary was presented before a selected group of stakeholders in each district. The group included participants from different sectors including civil society, academia, media, business, government officials etc. Feedback was solicited from these groups on the summary of observations and recommendations. The participants reflected on the presented summary and shared their views. Almost all the observations and recommendations were endorsed by these forums. Here is a summary of reflections shared by stakeholders.

Naushahro Feroze, Sindh:

- Significant migration of flood affected people to urban areas for livelihood and most of them may not return to cast their votes unless facilitated by candidates.
- NADRA should increase capacity at CNIC centre and provide mobile service in remote areas.
- NADRA should waive CNIC fees for flood affected communities.
- Special counters should be set up for elderly and differently abled people at NADRA centres.
- Education dept official shared that more than 50 school buildings are badly damaged where polling can't be held. They have conveyed the district administration to identify some other premises in those villages to conduct polling.
- Efforts should be taken to use any other premises in the same village for polling instead of relocating polling stations.



FDG with women group in district Naushahro Feroze, Sindh

Khairpur Mirs, Sindh:

- There is possibility of low voter turnout as people are disgruntled due to inadequate support and favouritism during flood and relief work.
- Parts of Khairpur district were the worst hit from where large-scale migration to Karachi and other cities have occurred. Most of these people will not come for just casting their votes.
- At some locations communities have lodged FIRs against each other due to conflicts during flood and such conflicts can disturb polling at some locations.
- Whereas many people have got their CNICs replaced but many women are still without CNICs.
- Elderly men and women have difficulty in getting replaced CNICs as their fingerprints are not being recognised.



FDG with minority group in district Khairpur Mirs, Sindh

Jaffarabad, Balochistan:

- CNIC replacement process is still on-going. People are being called again and again and the main problem is that NADRA officials are not giving proper information for the required documentation which causes delay in the process.
- District Administration should make NADRA effective with its full potential so that the CNIC replacement process can be completed before the elections.
- The representatives from the Education department added that the school buildings should be repaired as soon as possible if intended to be used as polling stations. However, if the repair cannot be achieved then there are other government buildings that can be used for this purpose.
- Conflicts were reported during floods, but local political representatives mediated and resolved these conflicts to avoid unfavourable voter turnout.



FDG with a mix group at Jaffarabad, Balochistan

Naseerabad, Balochistan:

- CNIC replacement is being delayed by NADRA due to slow process. The agents outside the NADRA office are taking money for CNIC replacement. Elderly citizens are the most affected by the process.
- Counters in NADRA offices should be increased. Mobile service should be started to help people getting their CNICs.
- The representative of the department of Education said that condition of school building is a concern. We have requested the district management to repair school buildings on priority so that polling stations can be established during the elections.
- The Journalist community representative added that as the school buildings are damaged and relocation of polling stations in this case will create inconvenience for voters.
- They added that conflicts have occurred during flood and on the polling day any conflicts may affect the election environment.
- Elderly and differently abled people will need transport support.



Interview with a woman at Naseerabad, Balochistan

6. Meetings with decision-makers

Meetings were held with the key government officials, public representatives, and officers of Election Commission of Pakistan. Purpose of these meetings was to apprise the decision makers on issues identified by stakeholders that may negatively affect electoral participation because of flood. During these meetings, solutions suggested by the stakeholders were also shared with the decision makers so that necessary measures can be adopted to ensure participation of masses in the electoral process. A summary of these meetings is as follows:

Mr. Suhail Ahmed Abbasi, Chairman District Council, Naushahro Feroze, Sindh:

Mr. Abbasi recognised the issues identified by stakeholders. However, he was confident that as elections will approach, government and elected local government representatives will address these concerns. He was of the view that due to Benazir Income Support Program; women have got their lost CNICs replaced on priority. He endorsed the suggestion of approaching NADRA to set up special counters for flood affected communities to expedite the pending load of cards. He was also optimistic that people who have migrated from the district will return to cast their votes as candidates will facilitate them.

Mr. Asif Abbasi, Election Officer, Naushahro Feroze, Sindh:

The Officer apprised that they have already highlighted most of these issues with provincial government in a recent meeting. They have identifies the flood-damaged pooling stations and the provincial government has assured that these premises will be repaired on priority. He also told that alternate government offices/buildings will also be considered for polling purpose to avoid relocation of polling stations. He shared that there is a Voters Education Committee in the district where they will take up these issues identified by local communities so that solutions at local level can be identified.

Mr. Jawad Larik, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Khairpur Mirs, Sindh:

Mr. Larik noted key concerns highlighted by stakeholders. He believed as election schedule will be announced, most of these issues will be addressed by the district administration and candidates. He said that repair of infrastructure damage will take time. However, he was confident that polling stations will be arranged in the same villages or in the outskirts if the infrastructure is irreparable. Regarding possibility of any violence due to conflicts during flood, he said that sensitive polling stations will be provided additional security if community formally approached the district administration.

Mr. Naeem Jalbani, District Election Commissioner, Khairpur Mirs, Sindh:

The District Election Commissioner was very much receptive to stakeholders' feedback. He said that he will approach NADRA office to ensure special arrangements of issuing CNICs before elections in the flood affected areas. He assured that no polling station will be relocated due to damaged school buildings. He said that alternative premises will be identified and in the worst-case situation even tents will be used to establish polling stations to



*Meeting with District Election Officer,
Khairpur Mirs, Sindh*

avoid relocation of polling stations. He also told that his district office has also identified similar challenges and the same have been conveyed to the provincial government for timely action.

Mr. Ajmal Khan, Assistant Commissioner, District Naseerabad, Balochistan:

The Assistant Commissioner was aware about the impacts of flood on electoral process. He discussed the CNICs replacement issues and said that the main issue with NADRA's slow pace as that they lack resources. He said he had a meeting with the officials of NADRA and suggested increasing the number of counters to speed up the process. He also said that constant breakdown of internet links also adds to the slow pace of the CNICs replacement. He added that the damages to the school buildings and other governmental buildings are evident, and he has also visited these buildings. He said the polling stations will be located in those buildings that are in good condition and if need be other premises such as private schools and Basic Health Units will also be considered for polling.

Mr. Nazar Khan Khoso, Vice Chairman District Council, Jaffarabad, Balochistan:

Mr. Khoso told that the lost CNICs are being replaced and people are aware that it is of utmost importance. However, it is also true the NADRA's process of replacement is not efficient due to insufficient staff and other reasons. He said that the district management has also ensured to look into this matter. He added that, as a political representative he himself is trying his best to ensure the CNICs get replaced so that maximum voter turn-out can be achieved. On the matter of relocation of polling stations, he further added that the district management and as well as the election commission office has assured that the relocation will not be to a far-off area so the voter convenience can be kept intact. He also highlights that the conflicts that arose during the floods. He said as political representatives, it will be our top priority to play a mediating role to settle such conflicts before the next elections.

Mr. Sher Ali Murree, District Election Officer, Naseerabad, Balochistan:

The District Election Officer remarked that the CNIC replacement issue is very genuine. In this regard he had a meeting with NADRA. He assured that the polling stations will not be relocated to ensure convenience of voters. He also said that the elderly citizens and the disabled will be facilitated with full responsibility. The polling stations where conflicts can arise will be provided extra security. He said that we are completely prepared for the elections.

7. Key Recommendations

During stakeholder consultations, the following measures were recommended by participants to increase electoral participation in the flood affected areas.

1. NADRA should consider increasing CNIC issuing centres in the flood affected areas to ensure that all flood affectees who lost their CNIC get new cards before the next elections.
2. At existing NADRA centres, special counters should be set up for women, elderly and differently abled people.
3. In remotes area located away from NADRA centres, mobile centres should be set up on fixed days to facilitate distantly located communities.
4. Fees for replacement CNIC should be waived off in the flood affected areas.
5. In case routine polling station buildings are damaged, polling stations should be set up in the same locality in any other premises rather than relocating to distant locations.
6. Partially damaged polling stations should be repaired before next elections.
7. Arrangements like ramp for differently abled people and washrooms for women should be arranged at polling stations.
8. If relocation of polling stations become inevitable, it should be arranged at a nearest available premises to avoid inconvenience for voters.
9. Areas where roads and access tracks are badly damaged, government should provide transport support to women, elderly and differently abled people enabling them to cast their votes.
10. Additional security should be deployed at polling stations where community conflicts during flood are likely to reignite and disturb vote casting.

8. Challenges

FGDs, KIIs and stakeholder meetings were conducted smoothly through local contacts. Some of the challenges encountered during the process are enlisted below:

1. Women participation was low in Balochistan due to socially restrictive circumstances.
2. Flood affectees in all the villages were expecting some relief support as most of them haven't been rehabilitated fully. Convincing them of discussing election related matters instead of any material support was a challenge.
3. At some locations government officials were reluctant to meet and discuss electoral issues due to political uncertainty.
4. In some cases, scheduled meetings were rescheduled due to sudden engagements of government officials.
5. Access roads in flood affected areas were mostly damaged and travel took more than the anticipated time.
6. FGD participants were mostly illiterate and were not able to sign attendance sheets.

Annexures:

Annex.1 District-wise findings

1. FDGs at District Naushahro Feroze, Sindh

1. **FDG at village Dhani Bux Samo (UC Abran, Taluka & District: Naushahro Feroze), Sindh**
No of participants: (13 female)
Impact of flood on the community: 70% of the village was affected during the flood. Some of the houses were completely destroyed whereas others were partially damaged. Access track of the village was badly damaged. Drainage system also got badly affected. Villagers also lost livestock and crops. The village school was also badly damaged.
2. **FDG at village Gul Muhammad Bular (UC Momin Khahi, Taluka Bhirya, District Naushahro Feroze), Sindh**
No of Participants: 13 (9 male, 4 female)
Impact of flood on the community: Kacha houses were completely damaged. School buildings were partially damaged. The village road came underwater and got damaged. Community couldn't cultivate two seasonal crops wheat & cotton as their agricultural land remained under flood water. There was also loss of domestic animals due to shortage of animal feed and water borne disease. Half of the population remained homeless for more than eight months.
3. **FDG at village Nisar Ahmed Mubejo (UC Noorpur, Taluka & District Naushahro Feroze), Sindh**
No of Participants: Hindu Baagrri minority community 18 (14 female, 4 male)
Impact of flood on the community: Approx. 80% of minority community migrated to nearby road for several months. Kacha houses were completely damaged. Access track of the village was inundated. Villagers lost livestock

S. #	Issues	Impact		
		Village Dhani Bux Samo	Village Gul Mohd Bular	Village Nisar Ahmed Mubejo
01	Loss of CNIC	Approx. half of the household have one or more persons who lost their CNICs during the flood.	30 villagers lost their CNICs during flood	About a dozen of people lost their CNICs

S. #	Issues	Impact		
		Village Dhani Bux Samo	Village Gul Mohd Bular	Village Nisar Ahmed Mubejo
02	Challenges in replacement of CNIC	Majority couldn't get their new CNICs mainly because (1) capacity of the NADRA centre at Naushahro Feroze is very limited and (2) they charge Rs.750 for normal card and Rs. 2,500 for urgent cards, which is not affordable for the affectees.	All CNICs replaced and issued by NADRA. No problem faced in the process.	Most of them got their cards replaced. However, one man and one woman have not got their CNICs because they have been asked to bring their mother's card for verification, but their mother died a long ago.
03	Access road damaged restricting access to polling station	Before flood distance to the polling station was 3 kms. However, their straight track has been damaged and they will have to travel for 10 kms if the track is not repaired. This can hamper voting process	Although village doesn't face issue as the polling station is established in their village, however some other villages will face problem to reach the polling station as access tracks are mostly damaged in the areas.	Their access track to polling station is washed away in flood. The alternate route is longer and if candidates do not provide transport, majority may not go for casting votes.
04	Premises of polling stations damaged that may require relocation of polling station to difficult areas	The polling used to take place in the school but now the school has been damaged due to flood. The polling may take place in other areas which could be difficult to reach for the villagers if located away	Polling station is located in the village school, which was partially, yet polling could be held, and they didn't expect any problem	If polling station is shifted away, they are not sure about going to cast vote
05	Influence of support during relief/recovery on voting	There had been no support during flood from any political representative. Only NGOs supported during the flood crisis. So, there won't be any influence	There had been no support during flood from any political representative. So, there won't be any influence on vote.	Community said their landlord who was also MPA of the area helped them during flood so they will vote in his favour
06	Impact of flood-triggered migration on vote casting	Majority of people migrated in nearby areas, and they have repatriated. In the neighbouring	Majority of people migrated in nearby areas, and they have repatriated. There are few	All villagers returned their homes

S. #	Issues	Impact		
		Village Dhani Bux Samo	Village Gul Mohd Bular	Village Nisar Ahmed Mubejo
		areas area some people who migrated to cities like Karachi and Hyderabad and they may not be able to cast their votes	families who migrated to distant places, and they may not be able to cast their votes	
07	Any accident/injury reported in village during floods that may limit ability of the person to caste vote	Only two persons got minor injuries, but they are fit to cast their vote.	One villager his left arm fractured but he will be able to cast vote	No major injury reported in the village
08	Any discrimination during disaster (in relief operations) that may influence voting	No such discrimination against anyone on any basis reported in the village	No such discrimination against anyone on any basis reported in the village	All of them unanimously said they do not face any religion-based discrimination in this area
09	Any difficulty you foresee as being a woman, minority, disable after floods for casting your vote	If polling station located away from the village due to the access track damaged during flood women and old age people might skip voting if transport is not provided. People told that usually candidates arrange transport for their potential voters	Women from neighbouring villages may find it difficult to reach as the access tracks are damaged.	Old age females are likely to face difficulty due to traveling if polling station is distantly located
10	Did you ever convey your problems to any relevant authorities? If yes what was the response	Villagers conveyed their concerns to the UC Chairman and former MPA of the area and requested NADRA for mobile van, but the problem still persist.	No problem was conveyed to anyone as the village has mostly recovered from flood damages	Yes, issues (transport to polling station) have been conveyed to local MPA whoassured to resolve our problems.
11	Any new conflict in the wake of disaster that may limit ability to cast vote or access any other election related needs	There were minor conflicts during flood but those were settled	There were minor conflicts during flood but those were settled	No such conflict in this area

2. FDGs at District Khairpur Mirs, Sindh

<p>1. FDG at village Ali Gul Katohar (UC Bugro, Taluka and District Khairpur Mirs), Sindh <i>No of participants:</i> 15 (female group) <i>Impact of flood on the community:</i> 52 houses were damaged, and 4 persons died during the flood. Many people got infected from different diseases, especially women and children. Loss of domestic animals occurred due to shortage of their feed and attack of diseases. Villagers have been traumatised due to the disaster.</p> <p>2. FDG at village Wahid Bakhsh Kubar (UC Pir Abdul Qadir Shah, Taluka Thari Mirwah, District Khairpur Mirs), Sindh <i>No of Participants:</i> 15 (male group) <i>Impact of flood on the community:</i> Houses and school building got damaged. Access road was completely reduced to dirt. People had to leave village for several weeks. Many areas in the vicinity are still under water.</p> <p>3. FDG at Tando Shah (Meghwar Muhallah (UC Sohu, Taluka Kot Diji, District Khairpur Mirpur), Sindh <i>No of Participants:</i> Hindu Meghwar minority community 11 (male) <i>Impact of flood on the community:</i> 60 houses were damaged. Area was under higher risk for being at bank of a canal. Access road remained intact and helped community to move out.</p>				
S. #	Issues	Impact		
		Village Ali Gul Katohar	Village Wahid Bakhsh Kubar	Village Tando Shah (Meghwar Muhallah)
01	Loss of CNIC	Approx. 100 people including some 80 women lost their CNICs during flood.	Approx. 10% population of the village lost CNICs. People of other neighboring villages lost 90% of their CNICs.	Only one-person lost CNIC
02	Challenges in replacement of CNIC	100% CNICs have been replaced and issued by NADRA. Mobile van was sent by NADRA for the convenience of villagers. A NGO supported the villagers by paying the CNIC fees ensured that van service was provided.	Approx. 90% of the cards have been replaced with the support of a local NGO that arranged NADRA vans at local villages.	No major problem in replacing the new card

S. #	Issues	Impact		
		Village Ali Gul Katohar	Village Wahid Bakhsh Kubar	Village Tando Shah (Meghwar Muhallah)
03	Access road damaged restricting access to polling station	Road access is damaged and reaching polling station will be very difficult as it is at a long distance. Hence, casting vote will be problematic.	More than half of local roads are damaged. The nearest polling station was only 1 kms away but now villagers will have to take a long route of approx. 9 kms to reach there due to damaged roads.	The village is divided into two wards. One ward has polling station which is near but the other ward's polling station is at some distance. Road damage problems may impact reaching the polling station.
04	Premises of polling stations damaged that may require relocation of polling station to difficult areas.	All participants said that as the school building has been damaged, there is a strong chance of relocation of polling stations which can cause problems if established at any distant location.	Many schools are damaged in the area. Participants showed their concern that over two dozen polling stations are likely to be relocated in the area which will be a big problem for voters.	Participants said that their village polling station is not damaged but some of the neighboring village schools have been damaged where polling stations could be relocated and that can impact voting turn out
05	Influence of support during relief/recovery on voting	Community was confident that no one can influence their vote	Participants said very limited influence exists which can impact vote casting. Most of the people were disgruntled due to attitude of government during flood.	Participants expressed their concern that the relief provided could be used as a political tool and will be used to influence during vote casting.

S. #	Issues	Impact		
		Village Ali Gul Katohar	Village Wahid Bakhsh Kubar	Village Tando Shah (Meghwar Muhallah)
06	Impact of flood-triggered migration on vote casting	There was temporary relocation, but all displaced people returned their homes.	Several people have migrated from this area to urban areas, and it can impact vote casting.	No significant out migration. All temporary displaced people repatriated
07	Any accident/injury reported in village during floods that may limit ability of the person to caste vote	Two persons got severely injured. One got totally paralysed due to trauma and the other lost his legs. They will not be able to cast their vote. Few other people got only minor injuries.	About a dozen people got injured during the floods and some of them are severely injured who may not be able to reach for casting of vote.	One person of the community (Mr. Raj kumar) was seriously injured and became disabled after losing his legs. Hence, he may not be able to go for casting his vote.
08	Any discrimination during disaster (in relief operations) that may influence voting	In some cases, discrimination was noticed on sectarian basis. One religious party used its support during the relief as a political tool and asked villagers to cast vote as a favour in return.	Some participants said that in another village a minority community was dealt with some discrimination during relief distribution. This could influence the casting of votes. However, there were not any widespread incidents of discrimination in the area.	Discrimination did happen as the relief was being given on party affiliation.
09	Any difficulty you foresee as being a woman, minority, disable after floods for casting your vote	Disabled persons and old aged women will face difficulty in vote casting due to long distance if polling station is relocated	Disabled personnel, elderly persons would face difficulty if transport not arranged.	Due to distant polling stations aged women of minority community are likely to face issues.

S. #	Issues	Impact		
		Village Ali Gul Katohar	Village Wahid Bakhsh Kubar	Village Tando Shah (Meghwar Muhallah
10	Did you ever convey your problems to any relevant authorities? If yes what was the response	Problems were conveyed to elected representatives that helped to mobilise NADRA mobile van for CNICs	Some complaints were conveyed to the UC Chairman who helped by mobilising NDARA mobile service to replace the lost CNICs	Villagers communicated problems to their Councillor (who was also present in the FDG). He had tried his best, but their houses reconstruction is not fully supported
11	Any new conflict in the wake of disaster that may limit ability to cast vote or access any other election related needs	Minor conflicts occurred but nothing serious that can hamper elections. One woman told that in another village she came to know about a conflict that can potentially restrict access of one community to cast their votes.	No serious conflict reported in the area. In another village a conflict was avoided through timely intervention of elders that could have disturbed elections	Conflicts did arise but those have been resolved and will not have any impact during voting.

Issues highlighted during Key Informants Interviews- Naushahro Feroze

1. Ms. Shabana Pirzado (Profession: Political Worker and Rights Activist, Age: 45 years)

1. Due to the damaged roads, access to polling stations will be difficult. ‘
2. Relief was intended on political basis so that it can be used for influence on the day of polling.
3. Relocation of polling stations is likely to occur due to damaged school buildings which will create difficulty for voters.
4. Discrimination occurred during relief phase on political grounds, and it will have impact on voting.
5. If relocated polling stations are established at distance, women’s vote will be negatively affected.

2. Mr. Riaz Mahar (Profession: Civic educations and youth activist, Age: 30 years)

1. One person got paralysed due to an accident during floods and he will not be able to cast his vote.
2. During the flood some conflicts occurred in some areas that may affect the elections in those areas.
3. Any relocation of polling station can be problematic as influential people will try to get the polling station relocated to their favourable areas.
4. The second instalment for house construction is unpaid, this could be used to influence before the day of election.

3. Mr. Abdul Qadeer Memon (Profession: Doctor and social media activist, Age: 52 years)

1. The roads are badly damaged, and it will limit access to polling stations.
2. Support given during the relief was politically motivated and was intended to influence votes.
3. Because of the damaged school buildings relocation of polling stations will occur which can create difficulty for people to reach
4. People got injured during the floods. I know one person whose spinal cord was damaged, and he is paralyzed now. He will definitely not be able to cast his vote.
5. Voter turnout is likely to be sluggish as people were ignored during flood and they have no love for candidates and parties.

4. Ms. Roshna Solangi (Profession: NGO professional, Age: 30 years)

1. Majority of the villagers have replaced their CNICs. NADRA centre has capacity to issue 150-200 cards per day. People have to wait for long hours to get their turn. Women and elderly find it very difficult in scorching heat.
2. Relief provided during flood can be politicised by the influential political representatives. Temporary shelters provided were on the lands of politicians and landlords and it will have impact on voting.
3. Conflicts were reported during flood mainly on water disposal and ration distribution. Some of these conflicts may arise again during elections. For example, a conflict in village ‘Manahi’ is still unresolved.
4. There were isolated incidents of discrimination to minorities during relief phase but mostly discrimination was on political grounds.

5. Mr. Zahid Rajpur (Profession: Media, Age: 35 years)

1. Loss of CNICs has been widely reported in the district and replacement process is slow. The district has only 5 NADRA centres which need to be increased at the town committee level.
2. The district has only 5 NADRA centres which needs to be increased at the town committee level.
3. Many roads are still badly damaged, and this will restrict access to polling stations.
4. I personally reported cases of people getting serious injuries, who got disabled during floods. For instance, a woman of village Siyal, UC Kandiaro will not be able to vote due to her disability.

6. Mr. Sikandar Rajput (Profession: Teacher, Age: 30 years)

1. As a teacher I know that many school buildings have been damaged and relocation of polling stations will occur. If polling stations are shifted to other areas at longer distance than people will face difficulty to reach.
2. There are incidents of people got injured during floods but there will be very few cases who can't cast vote due to injuries.
3. People who migrated to other areas may not be able to cast votes unless candidates provide them transport and other expenses. This favour also influences elections.

Issues highlighted during Key Informants Interviews- Khairpur Mirs

1. Ms. Ayesha Khand (Profession: Lawyer and Rights Activist, Age: 30 years)

1. People lost CNICs and faced difficulty in getting replaced cards.
2. During relief and recovery, political representatives did use their dominance on the affectees that will help them in influencing votes in their favour.
3. Conflicts have been reported during floods. Some are resolved but some are unsettled and that can spark again during polling.
4. Women will face problem to reach polling stations as access routes were wiped out during flood and rain.

2. Mr. Ali Ansar Sindhu (Profession: Activist for rights of differently abled persons, Age: 50 years)

1. Differently abled people faced difficulty in getting new CNICs.
2. People have been discriminated on the basis of sectarian, caste, and political inclination during relief. It will influence voting.
3. Accidents occurred due to flood roads in which people got disabled. I personally know three such cases.

3. Mr. Ghulam Qasim Jiskani (Profession: Agriculture, Age: 78 years)

1. Majority of people who lost CNICs have got new cards yet approx. 10% may be without cards.
2. Due to damaged schools, there is a possibility of relocation of polling stations. That will have political impact.
3. Women will have difficulty in reaching polling stations if relocated to distant locations.

4. Political influence during relief and rehabilitation process will impact voting.

4. Mr. Ameer Gul Katoohar (Profession: Political worker, Age: 65 years)

1. Roads connecting villages and towns are damaged. It will have impact on reaching at polling stations.
2. People are disgruntled for being ignored during flood. Many of them will not go to cast voting.
3. Injuries caused during floods are mostly cured and it will not impact voting.
4. Conflicts among communities triggered during flood and relief process can disturb polling at some locations.

5. Prof. Shah Mohammad Lohrani (Profession: Teacher and Researcher, Age: 70 years)

1. Polling will be affected in rural areas due to broken roads. However not much impact on urban centres.
2. Relief operation was clearly partisan on party basis so it will have direct impact on voting.
3. Damaged school buildings will cause relocation of polling. Temporary polling stations should be arranged.

6. Ms. Shahnaz Shaikh (Profession: Social Worker, Age: 35 years)

1. Women displaced from villages may not come to cast their votes.
2. Political influence during relief work will have effect on vote casting.
3. People in remote flood affected areas will face challenge in reaching polling stations. Candidates do provide transport.
4. Women, minorities and especially transgenders faced discrimination in relief support. Many of them will not cast vote as protest.

3. FDGs at District Jaffarabad, Balochistan

1. **FDG at village Muhammad Usman Seelra (UC Cattle Farm, Taluka & District: Jaffarabad), Balochistan, No. of participants: 15 (Male) Impact of flood on the community:** Kacha houses were completely damaged. People lost their crops, livestock, and their livelihood. Moreover, around 30 abortions were reported because of restricted access to health services during flood.
2. **FDG at Village Noor Muhammad Nawro (UC, Cattle Farm, Taluka & District: Jaffarabad), Balochistan, No of Participants: 16 (Male) Impact of flood on the community:** Houses were badly damaged. Road's access was disconnected. The stored wheat (in tons) of the people got destroyed in the floods. Households have been damaged on a large scale along with their livestock.
3. **FDG at Village Naseerabad (UC Naseerabad, Taluka: Naseerabad, District: Jaffarabad), Balochistan, No of Participants: 18 Impact of flood on the community:** Approx. 80% population suffered in different ways. People lost their livelihoods especially daily wagers got severely impacted. Education facilities got damaged. Moreover, the groundwater got contaminated and crops loss was also reported. Local businesses and road connectivity were impacted severely.

S. #	Issues	Impact		
		Village Muhammad Usman Seelra	Village Noor Muhammad Nawro	Village Naseerabad
01	Loss of CNIC	35 CNICs were lost of which 15 CNICs were of females.	37 villagers lost their CNICs during the flood which included 27 female CNICs	Around 350 CNICs have been lost including 250 of females.
02	Challenges in replacement of CNIC	CNICs were replaced with the help of NADRA mobile van service.	Replacement of the CNICs was very difficult due to delays from the NADRA office.	Replacement of the CNICs has been very challenging. 150 female CNICs are still pending.
03	Access road damaged restricting access to polling station	Roads have been damaged very badly. 80% of the participants said it would be very difficult for them to reach their polling stations.	Access roads are badly damaged. The distance to the polling stations will increase by 9 kms.	Majority roads in the village are damaged. Difficulty in reaching the polling stations will occur.

S. #	Issues	Impact		
		Village Muhammad Usman Seelra	Village Noor Muhammad Nawro	Village Naseerabad
04	Premises of polling stations damaged that may require relocation of polling station to difficult areas	Some school buildings are partially damaged, and some are fully damaged. Relocation may occur which will create difficulty in reaching the polling stations.	Current polling station buildings have been damaged and relocation is likely. Ultimately the relocation will create difficulty in reaching.	Majority of the schools are partially damaged, if relocation of polling stations occurs it will create difficulty in reaching there.
05	Influence of support during relief/recovery on voting	The participants said that during the relief influence was used to convince us to vote in favour in return of relief support.	Majority expressed their concern that the relief activities were inefficient so there is no chance of influence on the voting.	Some NGOs kept the relief items in the houses of influential personalities of the town. This can influence during the electoral process.
06	Impact of flood-triggered migration on vote casting	Some of the residents have migrated to other towns. This may impact vote casting.	Families of daily wagers and some skilled people migrated to other towns. This might have an impact on vote casting.	Some families migrated due to complete loss of their livelihood. They may not return for voting and hence there will be an impact on the voter turnout.
07	Any accident/injury reported in village during floods that may limit ability of the person to cast vote	One of the residents has been injured badly and got disabled. Two of the participants are still in severe trauma and some others in psychological shock.	Two women got disabled and they will not be able to cast their vote.	Many injuries were reported during the floods. Majority recovered from those injuries but one person from village "Allahabad" UC Naseerabad is totally disabled and won't be able to cast his vote.

S. #	Issues	Impact		
		Village Muhammad Usman Seelra	Village Noor Muhammad Nawro	Village Naseerabad
08	Any discrimination during disaster (in relief operations) that may influence voting	Some of the participants reported that political discrimination occurred and will have an impact on the voting.	Political discrimination was echoed during the FGD.	Participants stated that discrimination occurred during relief distribution and rehabilitation and will have an impact on the voting. Favouritism was also seen during the relief programs.
09	Any difficulty you foresee as being a woman, minority, disable after floods for casting your vote	Participants expressed their concern that the old, aged male and females, disabled will face issues in casting vote because travel will not be convenient.	The two disabled females will not be able to cast their vote. The old, aged women will face problems in reaching the polling due to longer distances.	Old age women and disabled people will have difficulty in casting votes.
10	Did you ever convey your problems to any relevant authorities? If yes what was the response	Some of the participants expressed that they informed the local authorities and as well as influential personalities of the area, but no action has been taken till now.	The problems were conveyed to the district authorities, and they have ensured to resolve the problems, but the issues are still pending.	Concerns were conveyed to the district management and local authorities, but their response is still awaited.
11	Any new conflict in the wake of disaster that may limit ability to cast vote or access any other election related needs	No conflicts had occurred. There will be no issue on the election day.	Conflicts did occur but were resolved and will have no impact on the polling day.	Minor conflicts were reported but were eventually sorted and will have no impact on the polling.

FDG at village Allahabad (UC: Naseerabad, Taluka: Jhat Pat & District: Jaffarabad), Balochistan, *No. of participants:* 24 (14 females & 10 males)

Note: This FDG was specially conducted for females

Impact of flood on the community: Majority of the houses have been damaged. People lost their belongings along with their livestock and stored wheat.

S. #	Issues	Impact
01	Loss of CNIC	10 CNICs were lost including 7 of females
02	Challenges in replacement of CNIC	Only 3 CNICs have been replaced while 7 still remain. NADRA centre has no discipline. Influential people get priority turn in the queue. This discourages ordinary people to visit the centre again and again
03	Access road damaged restricting access to polling station	The village is located along the main national highway, so they have no road access problems.
04	Premises of polling stations damaged	The polling station is already located in Naseerabad (2 kms away from this village), so there will not be any problem during polling days.
05	Influence of support during relief/recovery on voting	There is a definite possibility that people who were favoured in the relief process will be influenced in voting
06	Impact of flood-triggered migration on vote casting	Some families have migrated to other areas. This may impact the vote casting if they do not return before elections.
07	Any accident/injury reported in village during floods that may limit ability of the person to caste vote	No major injury has been reported in the area.
08	Any discrimination during disaster (in relief operations) that may influence voting	Participants said flood relief items were distributed on favouritism. It will certainly have an impact on voting.

S. #	Issues	Impact
09	Any difficulty you foresee as being a woman, minority, disable after floods for casting your vote	No significant impact
10	Did you ever convey your problems to any relevant authorities? If yes what was the response	Yes, the complaints have been submitted but there has been no positive response.
11	Any new conflict in the wake of disaster that may limit ability to cast vote or access any other election needs	The participants said as they are from the same community, no conflict reported, hence there will be no impact on the polling.

4. FDGs at District Naseerabad, Balochistan

1. **FDG at village Ali Nawaz Sundrani (UC: Shahzada, Taluka: D.M Jamali & District: Naseerabad), Balochistan, *No. of participants:* 20**

Impact of flood on the community: Flood water from the 'Pat Feeder Canal's' overflow caused damage to houses. In this flood people lost their essential belongings and livestock. Road network also got damaged.

2. **FDG at Village Qaisar Khan (UC: Sikandrabad, Taluka: D.M Jamali & District: Naseerabad), Balochistan, *No of Participants:* 23**

Impact of flood on the community: Houses got badly damaged. Some people lost their lives. Road network got damaged, and people also lost their livestock.

3. **FDG at Village Ayoubabad (UC: Jumma Khan, Taluka: D.M Jamali, District: Naseerabad), Balochistan, *No of Participants:* 14**

Impact of flood on the community: Severe damage to houses and domestic animals. People lost their means of livelihood

S. #	Issues	Impact		
		Village Ali Nawaz Sundrani	Village Qaisar Khan	Village Ayoub Abad
01	Loss of CNIC	Two women were lost CNICs during the flood that has been replaced through NADRA's mobile van service.	11 villagers including 7 women lost their CNICs.	15 people including 4 females lost their CNICs.
02	Challenges in replacement of CNIC	CNICs were replaced with the help of NADRA mobile van service, no issues occurred.	Replacement of the CNICs has been very difficult. Only 5 of the 11lost CNICs have been replaced till no	Replacement of CNICs has been difficult
03	Access road damaged restricting access to polling station	Roads have been severely damaged. 50% of the participants were concerned that road damages would restrict access to the polling station.	Access roads are damaged and will create difficulty in reaching our polling stations.	Connectivity of roads has been damaged and people face difficulty in daily transport.

S. #	Issues	Impact		
		Village Ali Nawaz Sundrani	Village Qaisar Khan	Village Ayoub Abad
04	Premises of polling stations damaged that may require relocation of polling station to difficult areas	The buildings allocated for polling have been damaged badly. There are chances of relocation of polling stations to distant areas.	As the school buildings have been damaged severely, relocation of polling stations seem is inevitable. This will increase distance to polling stations.	Our designated polling station is already 7 kms away from the village and this may become difficult if it is relocated.
05	Influence of support during relief/recovery on voting	Relief support was politicised which will affect voting.	All the participants reported that influence was being used and will have an impact on the voting day.	The participants said that they did not receive any help or relief.
06	Impact of flood-triggered migration on vote casting	Migrations have occurred but the candidates have offered to provide transport to them. There will be no issue for voting in this regard.	Migrations have occurred, especially the daily wage families. It is possible that some of them may not be able to come for voting.	Some families migrated but may come to cast their vote.
07	Any accident/injury reported in village during floods that may limit ability of the person to cast vote	No major injury has been reported	4 people were injured but now recovered and will be able to cast their votes.	Minor injuries were reported but will not impact vote casting.
08	Any discrimination during disaster (in relief operations) that may influence voting	Some of the participants said that discrimination occurred (on political affiliation basis) and relief was being distributed on favouritism basis, eventually it will have an impact on voting.	No discrimination occurred during the relief.	As we did not get any help or relief process for us, so there is no chance of discrimination.

S. #	Issues	Impact		
		Village Ali Nawaz Sundrani	Village Qaisar Khan	Village Ayoub Abad
09	Any difficulty you foresee as being a woman, minority, disable after floods for casting your vote	The road damages will create issues of transport for women and old aged people in reaching their polling stations	For women and old aged people difficulty will occur as the road network is damaged and distance is long.	Polling stations is already 7 kms away and the road is also damaged. We will have difficulty of transport, especially for women and old aged people.
10	Did you ever convey your problems to any relevant authorities? If yes what was the response	Yes, we have conveyed our issues to the Deputy Commissioner Office and the local MPA, but no serious response has been received till now.	Local authorities were informed, and they responded that they would resolve the issues but no action has been taken.	Concerns were conveyed to the local authorities, but their response is still awaited.
11	Any new conflict in the wake of disaster that may limit ability to cast vote or access any other election needs	Minor conflicts occurred during the floods. That may not affect the vote casting day.	No major conflicts occurred.	No conflict occurred so there will be no impact on election day.

Issues highlighted during Key Informants Interviews - Jaffarabad (Balochistan)

1. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Nawaro (Profession: Doctor, Age: 52 years)

1. CNICs of male and female were lost. And were replaced by NADRA's mobile service.
2. 100% of the roads were badly damaged including small bridges/culverts which will cause connectivity problem.
3. Some school buildings got partially damaged and some got completely damaged.
4. Due to the damaged school buildings, the polling stations will be relocated and this will be difficult for disabled, women and old aged citizens to travel to that polling station.
5. During the relief and recovery process the aid was given but people were asked to give their vote in return to a particular candidate.

2. Mr. Farhan Ali Magsi (Profession: Social Activist, Age: 30 years)

1. People also lost their livestock. Roads and infrastructure have also been damaged.
2. Around 100 of the CNICs were lost which included 70 women CNICs. Some have been replaced and rest of the CNICs are in the process.
3. Discrimination did occur in some areas. Relief items handling was intervened by some landlords who kept relief items at their residence. We complained about this to the concerned authorities but no action has been taken till now.
4. Conflicts occurred, some of which were resolved but one or two still remain and hopefully will be resolved before elections.

3. Mr. Sikandar Seelro (Profession: Agriculturalist and social worker, Age: 55 years)

1. Majority female CNICs were lost which were replaced now but the process was lengthy.
2. Crops and livestock were severely damaged and the groundwater also got contaminated. Disease spread specially women, children and old aged people are among the major affectees.
3. School buildings, link roads have been damaged. Polling relocation will create difficulty for us to travel and vote.
Relief activities were conducted in a discriminatory manner and relief items were given with an intention to gain votes in return.
4. Some people of our village have migrated from here due to permanent damage to their house. They may not return; this can impact on the voting.

4. Mr. Abdul Rauf (Profession: Teacher, Age: 38 years)

1. Houses and school buildings were badly damaged. Children's attendance declined severely due to trauma and fear amid the disaster.
2. Women and senior citizens suffered badly. Daily wagers were mainly affected because they lost their source of earning for their families.
3. We also lost our family CNICs during the disaster. The cards are still in process because of the sluggish process of the NADRA.
4. Relief process was influenced and high-level discrimination occurred, relief items were being distributed on favouritism. We kept on complaining but no notice was taken.
5. Relocation of polling stations will create difficulty for us and travelling will be hard during elections.

5. Ms. Faizan Bibi (Profession: social worker, Age: 52 years, UC: Naseerabad, District: Jaffarabad))

1. Majority houses of our village were totally damaged. Daily wagers came under severe difficulty. I lost my CNIC and many other women and men whom I know also lost their CNICs. I got it replaced by NADRA after facing much difficulty and the same problem faced by many others as well.
2. My village is near the national highway which is not damaged at all.
3. I noticed that those who had some influence were favoured during the relief and that can influence voting.
4. Those who are at a long distance may face difficulty in reaching their polling station.

6. Mr. Abdul Razzaq (Profession: Social Activist, Age: 42 years, UC: Naseerabad, District: Jaffarabad)

1. School going children suffered a lot as their education was disturbed due to floods.
2. CNICs were lost during the disaster. Many complaints regarding the delays from NADRA in replacement of the CNICs were there.
3. Discrimination was reported during the relief program and political favouritism was practised.
4. We complained to the local authorities but no serious notice has been taken till now.

Issues highlighted during Key Informants Interviews - Naseerabad (Balochistan)

1. Ms. Fazeela Qadir (Profession: Women Activist, Age: 27 years, UC: Manjoo Shori, District: Naseerabad)

1. Damages to infrastructure i.e, houses, school buildings have been severe. People also lost their livestock and crops.
2. CNICs were lost. Some have been replaced but some are still in the pending list. Response from NADRA has been very slow.
3. Discriminatory approach during the relief process was also observed on political grounds.
4. As roads and school buildings have been damaged, consequent relocation of the polling station will impact the voting turnover.
5. Some families have also migrated in the wake of disaster and it may impact polling turnover as well.
6. Poverty has increased massively because the people have lost their livelihood.

2. Mr. Ali Gul Pindrani (Profession: Journalist, Age: 42 years, UC: D.M Jamali, District: Naseerabad)

1. Damage to houses, school buildings and connecting roads occurred amid the floods. People got injured and some deaths were also reported.
2. People lost their stocks of food i.e., wheat, and other crops. The loss of livestock was also reported.
3. Many CNICs were lost including majority of female CNICs. The NADRA van service is a viable resource and it should be proactive.
4. Due to damages to the school building, polling stations relocation is inevitable.
5. Some conflicts were also reported. They may affect the polling day.

3. Dr Abdul Qadir (Profession: Doctor, Age: 40 years, UC: D.M Jamali, District: Naseerabad)

1. Houses, school buildings and Basic Health Units got badly damaged.
2. Some children and women died during the floods.
3. People lost their crops.
4. The relief process was discriminatory and undue favour was given to political favourites. This will surely impact voting.
5. Relocation of the polling stations is unavoidable because the school buildings have been damaged.

4. Mr. Ravi Kumar (Profession: Businessman, Age: 38 years, UC: D.M Jamali, District: Naseerabad)

1. Our houses and shops were damaged. We also faced loss in our business because damage to the stored goods was unrecoverable.
2. People around the vicinity lost their CNICs which have been replaced.
3. The CNIC replacement process in our town was prompt.
4. Discrimination was noticed during relief process with our Hindu community. They did not get proper response and relief material during the process.
5. People of our community (Hindu) have migrated to other areas which may affect the voter turnout during the polling.

5. Mr. Sikandar Ali (Profession: Social Activist, Age: 29 years, UC: Qaisar Khan, District: Naseerabad)

1. There has been infrastructure damage and livelihood means were disturbed.
2. CNICs were lost but most of them have been replaced.
3. Politically motivated discrimination did happen during the relief process and the distribution of the relief program was not fair.
4. Families have migrated from here, especially daily wagers. This would surely affect the polling turnover.

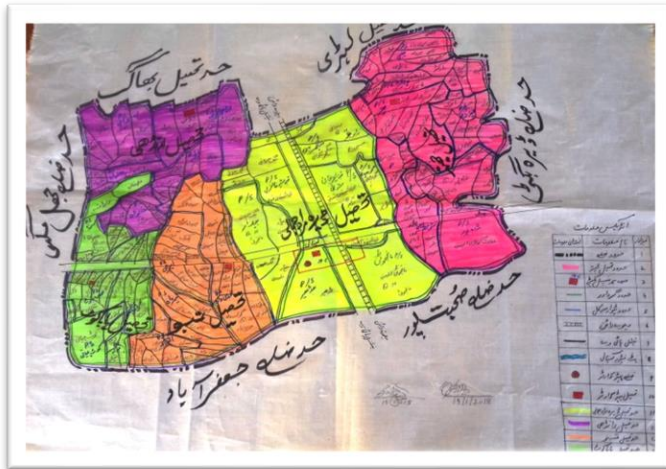
6. Mr. Sajjad Ahmad (Profession: Advocate, Age: 40 years, Tehsil: D.M Jamali, District: Naseerabad)

1. Houses and other buildings have been damaged severely; people have lost their livelihood, livestock, and essential personal belongings.
2. I did not lose my CNIC but many people I know in my area lost their CNICs. But now their CNICs have been replaced.
3. There was an obvious influence in the relief process so it will definitely affect vote casting.
4. I observed gender-based discrimination during the relief process.
5. Conflicts were also reported and some still stay unresolved. If sparked again, they may affect the polling day.
6. There are families that have migrated to the other cities and towns which n also will impact on the voting turnout.

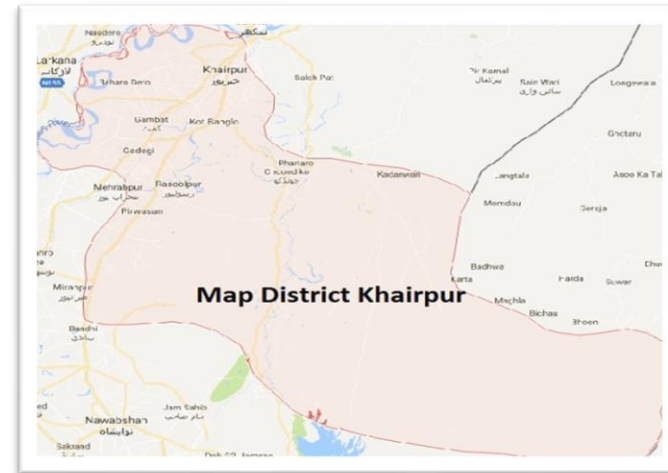
Annex.2

Maps of Districts

Naseerabad, Balochistan



Khairpur Mirs, Sindh



Jaffarabad, Balochistan



Naushahro Feroze



Annex.3

Filed Tool for FGDs and KIIs

S. No	Question
1	Location (village/UC/Taluka/District):
2	How area was impacted during floods
3	Lost CNIC during flood
4	Any challenges in replacement of CNIC?
5	Migration due to floods that may impact voter turn out
6	Access road damaged restricting access to polling station
7	Any influence on vote casting due to support during relief/recovery?
8	School/premises damaged that may require relocation of polling station to difficult area
9	Any new injury reported in village during floods that may limit ability of the person to caste vote
10	Any discrimination during disaster that may influence voting
11	Any difficulty you foresee as being a woman, minority, disable after floods for casting your vote
12	Have you conveyed your problems to local authorities? If yes, what is response
13	Any new conflict in the wake of disaster that may limit your ability to caste vote or access any other election related needs
15	Any other relevant problem

Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) is an independent, non-partisan and a not-for-profit civil society organization working on issues of peace and development in Pakistan. It is registered under section 42 of the Companies Ordinance, 1984 (XLVII of 1984) later substituted by Companies Act 2017. It was established in September 2003 by a group of concerned citizens who realized that there was a need to approach the issues of peace and development in an integrated manner. CPDI is a first initiative of its kind in Pakistan. It seeks to inform and influence public policies and civil society initiatives through research-based advocacy and capacity building in order to promote citizenship, build peace and achieve inclusive and sustainable development. Areas of special sectoral focus include promotion of peace and tolerance, rule of law, transparency and access to information, budget watch, media watch, local government, climate change, election watch and legislative watch and development.



Centre for Peace and
Development Initiatives

-  CPDI.Pakistan
-  CPDI_Pakistan
-  CPDI_Pak
-  CPDIPakistan2003
-  www.cpdipakistan.org

A Company setup under section 42 of the Companies Ordinance, 1984
(Now substituted by the Companies Act 2017)