

# Gender-Responsive Climate Action Plan for Displaced Populations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

## POLICY BRIEF

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## Key Messages

- Displaced women and girls remain invisible in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s (KP) climate policies.
- Current frameworks treat gender as vulnerability, without structural inclusion or budgets.
- No data or indicators capture displacement status, leaving the most climate-affected uncounted.
- Protection, maternal health, psychosocial well being and sanitation for displaced women are not integrated into adaptation planning.
- A Gender-Responsive Climate Action Plan (GR-CAP) is urgently needed to bridge humanitarian and climate governance.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa faces multiple and compounding climate risks—floods, droughts, forest fires, and heatwaves—disrupting livelihoods and displacing communities. The province hosts a large number of internally displaced persons (DPs), many in informal settlements highly exposed to climate shocks. Women often lose access to water, health care, and protection during crises. The 2022 floods, for example, left thousands of displaced women in KP without maternal health services, safe toilets, or safe spaces.

While KP’s Climate Change Policy (2022) and Action Plan (2022) acknowledge women as a vulnerable group, they fail to include displaced populations. The Pakistan Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP, 2022) provides a strong framework for gender inclusion but does not extend it to displacement status.

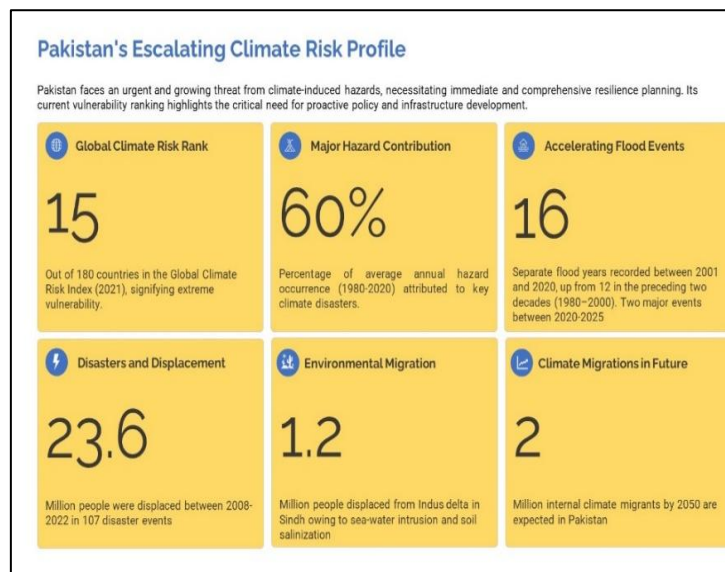
A dedicated Gender-Responsive Climate Action Plan for displaced populations is therefore crucial for Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and ultimately for Pakistan to ensure that climate adaptation addresses the needs of

displaced populations and strengthens resilience for those most vulnerable to risk.

## Evidence and Policy Gaps

### 1. Gender as Vulnerability, Not Agency

Women are framed as passive recipients of protection rather than active agents in climate governance. While KP’s policy promotes “gender mainstreaming,” it lacks binding quotas, budgets, or accountability. Participation is encouraged but not mandated, limiting structural inclusion.



## 2. Displacement is Invisible

Displaced populations are absent from hazard mapping, service delivery, and livelihood programs. Although ccGAP recommends

invisible, making equitable adaptation impossible.

## 5. Protection and Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

### Monsoon Floods and Mass Displacement (2022)

The 2022 monsoon floods represent Pakistan's most severe climate displacement event in recent history



Climate policies ignore the heightened risk of GBV during displacement. ccGAP's recommendations remain limited to research, with no safeguards, budget lines, or enforcement mechanisms in provincial planning.

studying their needs, no institutional or financial commitments exist. Sectors like WASH fail to operationalize displacement-specific responses.

## 3. Parallel Tracks, Weak Bridges

Climate adaptation and displacement are managed on separate tracks—provincial systems vs. humanitarian clusters—creating silos. Humanitarian actors are excluded from climate coordination platforms, leaving displaced persons without formal channels for participation.

*Without integration into adaptation frameworks, displaced populations remain outside anticipatory governance.*

## 4. Weak Data, Monitoring and Accountability

No mechanisms exist to collect sex- and displacement-disaggregated data. Without baseline surveys or monitoring frameworks, the vulnerabilities of displaced women remain

## 6. Health and Well-being Gaps

Displaced women lack access to maternal health, safe sanitation, and psychosocial support. The 2022 floods exposed severe

*“Nearly 60% of displaced women in KP had no access to maternal health or safe toilets after the 2022 floods.”  
— Ashraf et al., 2024*

service gaps, yet climate policies offer no structural provisions to address these recurring needs.

## 7. Financing Gaps

Adaptation efforts rely heavily on donor funding, with no earmarked budgets for gender or displacement-sensitive programs. Without binding financial commitments, initiatives risk remaining pilot-level and unsustainable.

*What isn't measured isn't managed, data gaps silence the most vulnerable*

## Key Recommendations

Ensuring displaced persons are centered in climate response



### Mandate Disaggregated Data

Require sex, age, disability, and displacement status data in all climate assessments for accurate insights.



### Gender-Displacement Working Group

Establish a permanent body to bridge climate and humanitarian governance effectively.



### Dedicated Focal Points

Appoint department representatives with clear mandates and sufficient budget support.



### Guarantee Representation

Implement a 30% women quota in climate committees and reserve seats for displaced persons.



### Earmark Adaptation Budgets

Allocate 10% of provincial climate budgets for gender and displacement-sensitive programs.



### Annual Accountability Reporting

Produce a yearly "Gender and Displacement in Climate Action Report" to track progress.

## Policy Recommendations

- 1. Develop a Gender-Responsive Climate Action Plan (GR-CAP):** Include displaced populations explicitly in all adaptation, mitigation, and DRR strategies. Institutionalize joint planning between the Climate Change Cell and humanitarian agencies.
- 2. Strengthen Data and Accountability:** Mandate disaggregation of all climate vulnerability data by sex, age, disability, and displacement status. Conduct baseline surveys and publish an annual Gender & Displacement Climate Report.
- 3. Bridge Institutional Silos:** Establish a Gender & Displacement Working Group, co-chaired by the provincial Climate Change Cell and humanitarian clusters, including NGOs and displaced persons' organizations.
- 4. Ensure Inclusive Participation:** Introduce minimum quotas (50%) for women and displaced persons in climate and DRR committees at provincial and district levels.

Build the capacity of displaced women leaders to participate meaningfully in adaptation governance.

- 5. Finance with Equity:** Earmark at least 10% of climate adaptation budgets for gender- and displacement-sensitive programs. Prioritize maternal health, WASH, and protection infrastructure in adaptation financing.

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