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GA3: SOCHUM

Research Report

Topic 2: Seeking further support for Pakistan after the flooding (2022).



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Introduction:

Welcome to the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly – the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM). First founded in 1945 in reaction to the establishment of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, SOCHUM gears its focus onto the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the abolition of racism and racial discrimination, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, and the right to self-determination, frequently addressing social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, aging, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control. During this debate, the delegates will work towards finding the best way of dealing with Pakistan's floodings, as the country's population is up against the worst floodings since 2010. As global warming has become an issue few have not been touched by, we see harsher climates, as well as a pressing number of climate refugees worldwide. But as HIC countries have the most greenhouse emissions, it is often not them that feel the aftermath and consequences of climate change. Factories are moved to poorer countries that then suffer the consequences of air pollution and harsher climates. Pakistan is responsible for less than 1% of the world's greenhouse emissions yet is one of the countries that suffer the biggest climate-change hazards across the entire globe. The country is not foreign to monsoon rains, as well as floods but the amounts of flooding they have been met with have worsened by climate change and are no longer something the country can deal with alone.¹

Definition of Key Terms:

- **HICs, MICs and LICs:** Higher-income countries, middle-income countries, and lower-income countries, are important distinctions to make when talking effects of climate change, as well as financial compensation for it, which this report will get more into later.
- **Vulnerability:** the inability of a community to deal with climate change, is an important term when discussing the most at-risk people in Pakistan, as the need for humanitarian help can vary drastically.
- **COP:** conference of the parties, also known as the United Nations climate change conference, is one of the key players when it comes to global intervention concerning climate change. In the latest years, it had made news discussing HIC countries compensating LICs for climate change.

- **NGOs: Non-Governmental organizations**, are one of the most important humanitarian service providers during disastrous events. In the case of Pakistan, they not only provide food and tents, but build water treatment centers as well as provide medical aid.

Background Information:

As previously mentioned, Pakistan is not foreign to floods and rains, and has endured much damage for example in years 2005 and 2010. However, since June 2022, Pakistan has been hit by the deadliest floods in the country's history. The total economic damages are estimated to be about 15 billion USD. The sectors suffering most are the agricultural, transport as well as housing. Around 2.1 million homes have been destroyed, 15% of rice crops are affected, and 1.2 million livestock killed. All this adds to the overall decrease of the standard of living in Pakistan, possibly pushing about 5.9% more people into extreme poverty, and placing Pakistan in desperate need of humanitarian assistance.²

With so many displaced people, and large amounts of infrastructure destroyed, Pakistan is also dealing with an international health crisis, caused by rising food prices as well as disease outbreaks, including malaria and typhoid.³ With a shortage of hospitals as well as medical staff to deal with this, it has become one of the most pressing issues. The most vulnerable groups, such as women in agricultural sectors as well as children, are most in need of help and medical support. About 10 million children need lifesaving care, with the lack of medical resources to aid them. Furthermore, with the agricultural sector suffering, about 1 out of 9 children under five admitted to hospitals in flood-hit areas suffer from malnourishment.

As often happens during large-scale disasters, we can observe many underlying issues that have existed already prior to the flooding. With one of the largest amounts of unvaccinated children in the world, as well as a drastic need for maternity aid for thousands of women, the issue of health aid is more pressing during this crisis than ever. The government is worried about the return of polio, and Pakistan has already seen about 20 cases in 2022. As people are displaced with a lack of proper sanitation, it is important to prevent the disease outbreak from happening.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved:

- **The Red Cross** has mobilized what they call the "Red Crescent". An organization helping victims of Pakistan flooding that focuses mostly on critical needs such as water, food, and shelter for those affected in the Pakistan flooding. The organization has provided tents, critical relief items, medical health units, first aid support, as well as 11 water treatment plants, that provide safe drinking water for those in need.

- [Alkhidmat foundation of Pakistan](#) is the leading NGO in the country. It works with the evacuation of the victims, setting up tent villages, protecting the most vulnerable against malnutrition as well as clean water and sanitation to prevent the further spread of diseases.
- [Pakistan Islamic medical association](#) is an NGO that works closely with Pakistani doctors, as well as the Alkhidmat foundation, focuses on keeping the victims of the floods safe from the spread of diseases. Except for involvement in humanitarian aid for Pakistan floods, the organization mostly focuses on gender segregation in hospitals according to Islamic beliefs.
- [India](#): The Indian government itself is not foreign to the dangers of flooding and has provided flood relief to Pakistan during floods in 2005 as well as 2010, while the Pakistani government in return has helped India during the 2005 Gujarat earthquake. Now with Pakistan most in need, the Indian government has provided 25 million USD.
- [United Kingdom](#): Except for being the main donor of the red cross, which is one of the leading NGOs during the flooding, the government has donated around 32 million USD to flood relief.
- [United States](#): The US has been a long-time investor in Pakistan, aiding around 7.7 billion USD over the past decade, as well as being largely involved in counterterrorist programs in the country. Since the flooding, the US has donated around 30 million to flood victims.

Relevant UN Resolutions:

- [30. August 2022](#): UN launches a flash appeal for 160 million USD to aid Pakistan flood victims, as the effects of the floodings gradually worsen.
- [9. September 2022](#): The central emergency response fund (CERF) has released 7 million USD for emergency aid of Pakistan flooding victims. CERF is known as the immediate funding program of the UN, which lets money be sent immediately when disaster strikes.
- [4. October 2022](#): due to the drastic situation the August flash appeal is changed to 816 million USD, launching the ‘2022 Pakistan Flood Relief Plan’. The appeal focuses on protection and humanitarian assistance to 9.5 million people until May 2023.⁴
- [7. October 2022](#): Proposed by the government of Pakistan, heavily highlighting Pakistan’s vulnerability to climate change while emitting less than 1% of greenhouse gasses the resolution “urged the international community to provide full support and assistance to the Government of Pakistan in its efforts to mitigate the negative impacts of the floods and meet the medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction needs.”⁵

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue:

- **COP:** On a global plan, one of the most pressing issues during the COP27 conference was the compensation of HIC countries to LIC countries affected by global warming, (this, including Pakistan) called “loss and damage support” at the conference, as compensation was not something the HIC countries believed was a fair term. This has been an issue debated throughout multiple COP conferences, and first, now the countries seemed to reach a decision. However, the outcomes are far from specific, and still far off.

It is important to note that the Pakistan flood issue is not new, but is still occurring. Except for global attempts to solve climate change, which is one of the main reasons of the nation’s suffering, the other attempts are rather ongoing humanitarian actions that all have been listed above, as well as discussions of global funding for Pakistan.

Possible Solutions:

- **Mitigation of floods,** and a general larger focus on preventing another flooding disaster of this degree in Pakistan. Building of dams in most at risk areas, as well as strengthening the resilience of buildings. Furthermore, the building of shelters and larger housing areas if more people are put on the streets during future natural disasters.
- **Humanitarian help to people affected,** as even with the number of NGOs working with people affected large parts of the population have been put in poverty, highlighting the fact that shelters and tents are only short-term solutions.
- **Immediate medical help,** as the fatalities by flooding are only one of the many dangers the people of Pakistan are facing. Focusing on sanitation, clean water, medical aid, as well as vaccinating children, as the amount of displaced people heightens the danger of a possible polio outbreak, as well as malaria and typhus, which the country does not have the financial resources to deal with.
- **Global compensation,** puts blame on HIC countries as the biggest contributors to the emission of greenhouse gasses and urges them to pay larger compensation amounts directly for relief in Pakistan, as well as the further rebuilding of the country’s economy.
- **Greenhouse emission limitations,** will prevent the worsening of the harsh weather conditions the most vulnerable countries are currently met with.
- **Relief support programs ensuring safety for women,** who during this disaster are seen to suffer both with mental as well as reproductive health. Ensuring not only their

health and safety, but also job possibilities to strengthen the Pakistani economy after the flooding, as well as postponing pregnancies to strengthen the health of the population.

Possible Questions to Consider:

- How much responsibility should the HIC countries take, in the case of climate-change-related disasters in LIC countries?
- How much should the country focus on humanitarian aid for people in need now, and how much should it focus on preventing future disasters?
- What is going to be done with the economic hardships the country is going to suffer after mitigating the flooding?
- How to improve the health standards of the most vulnerable to disease outbreak?
- How pressing is the issue of women's role in society when dealing with the economic and social aftermaths of the Pakistan flooding?

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