

# National Disaster Management Authority



## Provincial Level Multi-Hazard Emergency Response Simulation Exercise Report

1-3 July 2025 Karachi, Sindh

National Institute of Disaster Management

## Table of Contents

<i>Executive Summary</i> .....	3
<i>Introduction</i> .....	4
<i>Aim and Objectives</i> .....	4
<i>Scenario-Based Planning and Key Themes</i> .....	5
<i>Intended Lessons</i> .....	6
<i>SIMEX Proceedings</i> .....	7
Inaugural Session .....	7
Interactive Sessions .....	9
NDMA SimEx Model .....	11
Provincial SimEx Syndicate Formation .....	13
Reflection of Syndicate Response .....	13
Mock Drill .....	20
Closing Session .....	22
<i>Lessons Learnt</i> .....	23
<i>Recommendations</i> .....	24
<i>Camera Clicks</i> .....	25

## Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
CBDRM	Community-Based Disaster Risk Management
CCCM	Camp Coordination & Camp Management
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DEW	Disaster Early Warning
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NEOC	National Emergencies Operation Centre
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIDM	National Institute of Disaster Management
SIEHS	Sindh Integrated Emergency and Health Services
SimEx	Simulation Exercise
UN	United Nations
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
WFP	World Food Programme

## Executive Summary

The Provincial Level Multi-Hazard Simulation Exercise (SIMEX), held in Karachi from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025, was a key initiative led by NDMA in collaboration with PDMA Sindh WFP and other humanitarian partners to assess disaster preparedness and strengthen inter-agency coordination in the province. The exercise focused on building capacity around Anticipatory Action and NDMA's model of proactive collaborative response, with sessions covering, risk scenarios in Sindh, impending summer contingencies as per **NEOC DEW-III** and strategies to reduce the risks and vulnerabilities and embed inclusive DRR and AA into institutional planning and financing.

Participants were engaged in four real time scenarios - urban flooding, riverine flooding, heat wave and cyclone. **Table top SimEx was followed by hand-on practice of life saving skills and a Water Rescue and Camp Management Mock Drill.** The scenarios were designed to simulate real-time challenges and multi-stakeholder operational responses. Key discussion points highlighted issues of aid duplication, beneficiary verification, community mistrust, mass level awareness and the need for improved risk communication and standardized logistic and camp protocols.

Academia syndicate played a critical role by contributing research-based insights, while PDMA's coordination and early warning dissemination mechanisms were recognized as vital enablers. The SIMEX reaffirmed the importance of inclusive planning, localized preparedness, and proactive risk reduction, marking a significant step toward a more resilient disaster management system in Pakistan.

The simulation not only assessed current levels of emergency preparedness but also fostered forward-looking thinking through the application of anticipatory action principles guided by NDMA proactive approach. It promoted integrated, inclusive planning and highlighted the value of multi-sectoral collaborative response at all levels. Importantly, the exercise reaffirmed the need for sustained investment in strengthening first tier of response i.e. DDMA's, and localized risk reduction efforts. This initiative represents a significant step toward building a more resilient disaster management system in Pakistan ensuring that national-level strategies are effectively translated into meaningful action at the local level.

**More than 100 officials** from NDMA, PDMA Sindh, armed forces, provincial line departments, DDMA's, Sindh Civil Services Academy (TMR), UN System, emergency services, humanitarian partners, academia, media and volunteer organization such as PRCS, Pakistan Girls Guide Association, Sindh Boy Scouts Association and Edhi Foundation, participated in the Simulation Exercise. **Mr. Abdul Waheed Shaikh, Additional Chief Secretary (TMR) to Government of Sindh, graced the closing ceremony.**

## Introduction

NDMA's National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) continues to advance its mission of enhancing national disaster resilience by transferring national-level learning to provincial, district and community levels through training, workshops, drills and simulation exercises. Recognizing the evolving nature of natural disasters in Pakistan, particularly the increasing frequency and severity of summer hazards including flooding, monsoon-related hazards, heatwave and coastal hazards, NIDM in collaboration with PDMA Sindh, UN WFP and FAO organized a Provincial Level Multi-Hazard Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (SIMEX) from 1–3 July 2025 in Karachi, targeting all relevant stakeholders. The simulation focused on practical preparedness and emergency response mechanisms tailored to the specific vulnerabilities of Sindh, aiming to enhance provincial capacity in handling complex emergencies through scenario-based learning and anticipatory action planning.

## Aim and Objectives

Aim of the exercise was to evaluate and enhance preparedness, coordination and response capabilities among government agencies, emergency services and communities by identifying strengths, resource availability / gaps and areas for improvement, to foster resilience, improve public awareness and ensure a unified and effective response to different emergencies. Key objectives include:

- i. Test **interoperability** and **foster collaboration** among federal ministries, PDMAs, Armed Forces, humanitarian organizations, academia, media and international partners.
- ii. **Identify gaps** in resource allocation, communication infrastructure, procedural protocols and decision-making processes.
- iii. Test the **efficiency** of **information flow** between stakeholders, including early warning systems, situational reporting and public alerts.
- iv. **Promote partnerships** between government bodies, armed forces, INGOs (e.g. UN agencies) and local NGOs **to leverage diverse expertise and resources**.
- v. **Practice anticipatory action protocols and enhance technical and operational** capacities of disaster management agencies.
- vi. Emphasize **importance** of **coordination** between government entities, rescue agencies, and industrial partners for timely disaster management.
- vii. **Utilize impact-based simulations** to **assess vulnerabilities, risks**, anticipated **damages** and affected areas.

- viii. **Harmonize** provincial **disaster management plans with the national strategy** to ensure a unified approach to risk reduction and recovery.
- ix. Address **considerations** for **gender, child** protection and **vulnerable populations** in disaster planning and response efforts.
- x. **Leverage technologies** for probabilistic hazard assessments and explore innovative methodologies for humanitarian interventions and emergency response systems.
- xi. Increase **community awareness** and promote **readiness** and foster a **culture of preparedness** and resilience within communities to withstand and recover from disasters.
- xii. To seek **established, effective** and **wide-reaching risk communication** of impending disasters to all communities under threat.

## Scenario-Based Planning and Key Themes

The SIMEX followed scenario-based exercises focusing on multiple summer hazards that included:

- a. Riverine flooding
- b. Urban Flooding
- c. Heatwave
- d. Coastal Hazards

The simulation exercise was designed to rigorously stress-test existing provincial disaster management preparedness while promoting the integration of Anticipatory Action (AA), a proactive, forward-looking approach to disaster risk reduction. Unlike traditional reactive models, AA emphasizes early planning, timely response based on credible forecasts, and community-level preparedness.

NEOC Tech team generated the realistic scenarios based on DEW-III along with associated exposure and GIS maps. Monsoon flooding scenario upstream Sukkur was selected for orientation of the provincial and district syndicates in order to familiarize them with NDMA's SimEx model that was supposed to followed later in their respective responses to the given scenarios.



## Intended Lessons

The anticipated lessons of the simulation included:

- a. Effective disaster response hinges on seamless coordination between national, provincial and local agencies.
- b. Systemic weaknesses (e.g. delayed resource mobilization, inadequate medical supplies, or logistical bottlenecks) become evident under simulated pressure.
- c. Robust, modern and accurate *Early Warning System* is a *key element* of climate change adaptation and risk reduction to avoid or reduce damages caused from natural hazards.
- d. Significance and *improvement of risk communication system* utilizing all mediums is *essential* for public awareness to reduce the impact of any disaster
- e. *Advance, realistic and joint planning* involving all DM stakeholders is *necessary* for synergetic and cost-effective employment of DM resources.
- f. *Technology* can be used to create *dividend* in *early warnings, saving lives* and infrastructure.
- g. Synergy is critical and possible through greater and refined understanding of each other's strengths and capacity limitations, achieving maximized interoperability amongst local, zonal, national, global, military and private sector.
- h. *Area profiling* to include public sector infrastructure and human database is *essential* for expeditious rescue, judicious relief and prudent rehabilitation.
- i. *Area profiling / hazard mapping* at local scale is *necessary* for expeditious rescue, judicious relief and prudent rehabilitation and to serve as base for formulation of DM plans.
- j. *Streamline procedures, well-rehearsed drills* and coordinated *responses pay dividend* in face of any disastrous situation.
- k. *Hazard specific, customized and pre-identified stocking* and pre-placing of resources is *necessary* not only to ensure prompt response and economy of effort / resources.

# SIMEX Proceedings

## Inaugural Session

1. The Karachi SimEx began with opening remarks by *Mr. Waseem Ahmed* (Manager Training, NIDM), who welcomed all participants and acknowledged WFP's support in the capacity-building training of government officials. He applauded the supportive role of PDMA Sindh in arranging the SimEx smoothly. Mr. Waseem highlighted the importance of transferring national-level learning to the provincial and community levels and gave an overview of SimEx scope and objectives at the same time discussing Pakistan's vulnerability to natural disasters.



2. A video presentation on **National Emergencies Operations Centre (NEOC)** was played, demonstrating the national-level response framework and showcasing the coordination structure from the NEOC down to the district level. The video gave participants a visual understanding of how proactive disaster management regime is structured in Pakistan.



3. **Mr. Adil Askari, Member Provincial Assembly, Sindh** appreciated the efforts of NDMA, especially their commitment to strengthening disaster preparedness and local response capabilities in partnership with provincial and district institutions. He emphasized the importance of such simulation exercises in creating synergy among all stakeholders and ensuring that vulnerable populations remain at the center of all disaster planning efforts.





4. **Mr. Shayan Shah**, Dy. Director conveyed the appreciation and gratitude to NDMA on behalf of DG **PDMA Sindh** for regularly conducting capacity building activities to strengthen the provincial capacities. He highlighted the department's collaborative approach with stakeholders during disasters and shared that all stakeholders are taken on board from planning to execution phase of any impending challenge. He apprised the house that PDMA Sindh stands prepared for monsoon 2025.



5. **Ms. Hilde Bergsma**, WFP Provincial Head-Sindh stressed on responding proactively to vulnerable communities during and before disasters and emphasized the specific needs of different groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly. She encouraged participants to think about how communities can stabilize themselves in the wake of disasters, and stressed the importance of turning this simulation exercise into actionable planning.



6. **Dr. Abid Jalaludin Sheikh**, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer (1122) emphasized on the need to strengthen organizational technical capacities and coordinated response. He apprised the participants on readiness of Rescue 1122.



7. **Mr. Inam Abroo**, Director Training Management Research (TMR) Wing, Sindh highlighted the importance of trained government officers in the field of DRR and disaster management. He further stressed that the participation of officers from the Civil Services Academy (TMR), Sindh in this SIMEX is particularly timely, as they are expected to be deployed at DDMA's within few weeks. Mr. Abroo highlighted that such hands-on simulation exercises are essential for preparing future civil servants to navigate complex field realities.

## Interactive Sessions

8) **Mr. Muhammad Khan, Risk Assessment**

**Expert PDMA Sindh** presented an overview of the disaster risk profile of the province and highlighted **vulnerabilities specific to Sindh's geography and climate**. During the session, particular attention was given to the impact of climate change on key sectors such as agriculture, food security, and public healths,



highlighting how these risks are intensifying due to shifting weather patterns and rising temperatures. Lessons learnt from the 2022 floods were presented, and the urgent need for improved preparedness and resilience was highlighted. Participants were also briefed on several key frameworks and tools that guide disaster management in Sindh. The session also introduced the **Sindh Monsoon Contingency Plan 2025**, designed to prepare the province for seasonal flooding and related emergencies.

9) **Mr. Naeem Iqbal, FAO Programme Policy**

**Officer** explained the **concept of Anticipatory Actions** defining it as the process of acting ahead of predicted hazards to prevent or reduce humanitarian impacts.



The session referred to the G7's 2022 definition of early warning, emphasizing the use of pre-arranged plans, reliable early warning information

and pre agreed financing mechanisms for effective disaster management. The session further explored how AA operates in practice, highlighting key elements such as the use of triggering mechanisms that activate response efforts ahead of a disaster.

It emphasized the importance of pre-arrangements and coordination among stakeholders to ensure readiness. Participants learned how AA can be used for multiple hazards, including cyclones, floods, droughts, and compound crises like conflict-driven displacement. The importance of developing multi-hazard protocols and pre-arranged financing was also highlighted.

10) **Ms. Khadija Abid, Programme Policy Officer, WFP** delivered a session on **integration of Anticipatory Action (AA) into disaster risk management planning**. She reiterated that the frequency and intensity of disasters in Pakistan demonstrates that traditional humanitarian methods are no longer sufficient. As a result, there is a pressing need to shift the disaster



response system toward anticipatory, forecast-based approaches. She discussed that evidence from Bangladesh and Nepal shows that AA can reduce humanitarian response costs by up to 50%. In Pakistan, WFP's successful pilot of fast-track cash disbursements to over 30,000 households ahead of Cyclone Biparjoy in Sindh demonstrated the potential of proactive measures.

The resource person emphasized that Pakistan's current DRR systems need a comprehensive AA policy, operational mechanisms, and sustainable financing. The presenter recommended developing a national AA strategy that includes hazard-specific forecasting, early warning systems, and interoperable databases such as Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP). It also calls for establishing dedicated AA funding within DRM budgets and strengthening institutional capacities at federal, provincial, and district levels.

11) **Ms. Bushra Hassan (Director R&R, NDMA)** delivered session on **post disaster recovery and rehabilitation**. This session provided NDMA's role in post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation in Pakistan. She explained that NDMA adopts a "Build Back Better" approach, which aims not only



to restore what was lost but to improve resilience, safety, and inclusiveness in affected communities. The recovery and rehabilitation process is guided by comprehensive damage and loss assessments, multi-sectoral needs analyses, and the development of targeted recovery and rehabilitation plans. These efforts prioritize key sectors such as housing, health, education, livelihoods, and water and sanitation. The session emphasized that effective recovery is not just about rebuilding infrastructure but about restoring dignity, enabling community participation, and ensuring long-term resilience.



## NDMA SimEx Model

12). NDMA team, before engaging the participants in Simulation Exercise, demonstrated the **NDMA Simex Moedl for Monsoon Flooding**. **Ms. Anum Bashir (NEOC Tech)** presented an overview of NEOC capabilities in terms of seasonal forecasting and generating reliable early warnings. **Mr. Waseem Ahmed** elaborated the role of the National Institute of Disaster Management (**NIDM**) as NDMA's think tank, emphasizing collaborative research projects with universities to support evidence-based policymaking. He shared the details of NIDM connectivity efforts to link national universities with international academic institutions.

13) **Mr. Saad (DRR Wing)** explained NDMA's Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) mandate, which



focuses on mainstreaming DRR into national development frameworks, promoting resilient infrastructure, and integrating risk-informed planning across all sectors. **Mr. Zargham (Media Wing)** explained the functioning of NDMA's Media Wing in ensuring timely, transparent, and accurate dissemination of information during and before disasters. He introduced the Pak NDMA Mobile App and its feature in detail. **Mr. Ali Zarak (Ops Wing)** explained the structure and responsibilities of the Operations Wing, focusing on logistical planning, emergency deployment, and the real-time coordination of disaster response operations. **Mr. Hanif (Plans Wing)** discussed the concept and operationalization of NDMA's INSaR concept and urged the stakeholders collaboration for actualization of INSaR in true spirit.





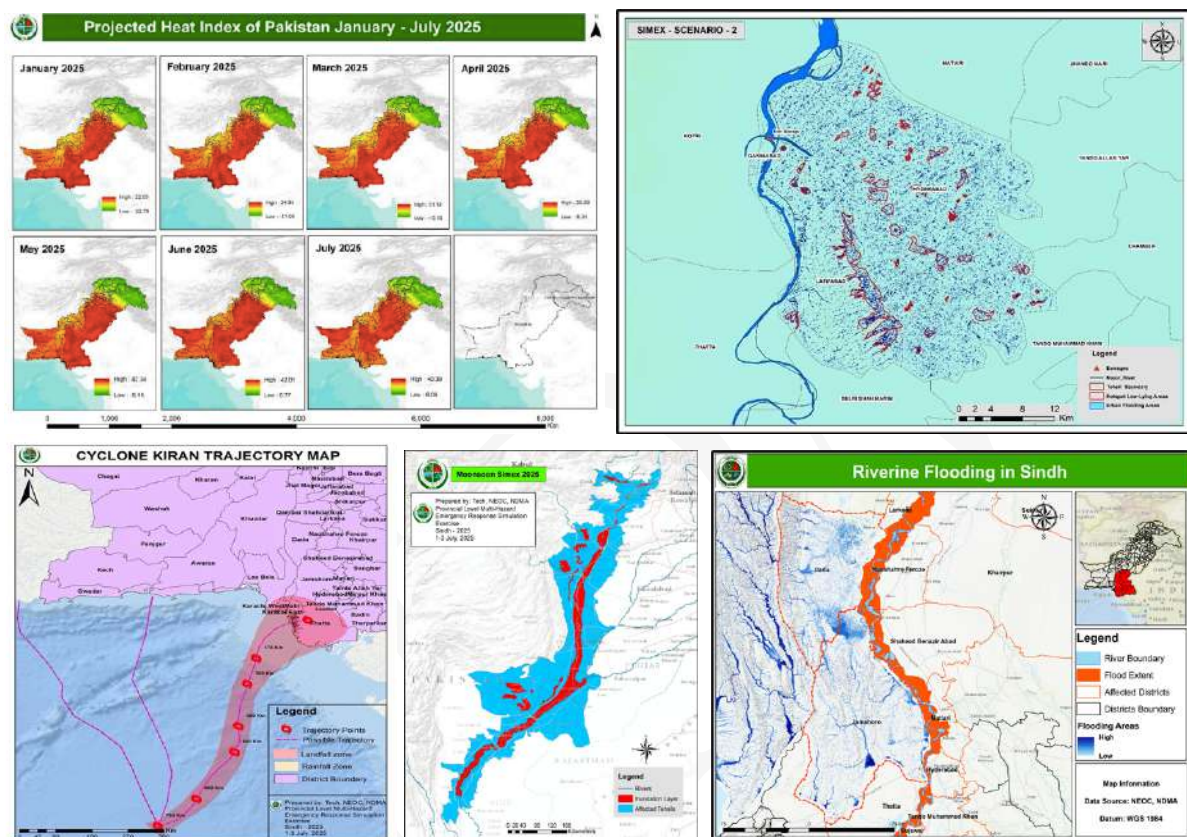
14) The day concluded with the question answer session where participants from the **Civil Services Academy** raised insightful questions regarding the roles and responsibilities of various disaster management institutions at different tiers. In response, several key clarifications were provided by NDMA team to help participants better understand the operational structure. It was explained to the participants that the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) serves as the first responder during emergencies at the local level. In contrast, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (2<sup>nd</sup> Tier) and NDMA (3<sup>rd</sup> Tier) function primarily as facilitators, offering policy direction, strategic guidelines, providing analytical support and bridging the resource and capacity gaps. Role of community volunteers was also emphasized during the discussions.





## Provincial SimEx Syndicate Formation

15) Participants were divided into eight syndicate groups representing PDMA Sindh, Armed Forces, Academia, Humanitarian, Heat wave, Coastal Hazard, Riverine Flooding, Urban Flooding,. Each syndicate was given specific scenario to respond to as per their assigned role. The syndicates developed and presented responses, coordination strategies, and recommendations for preparedness, response, and recovery phases as required.



## Reflection of Syndicate Response

Reflection of the syndicate presentations is as under:

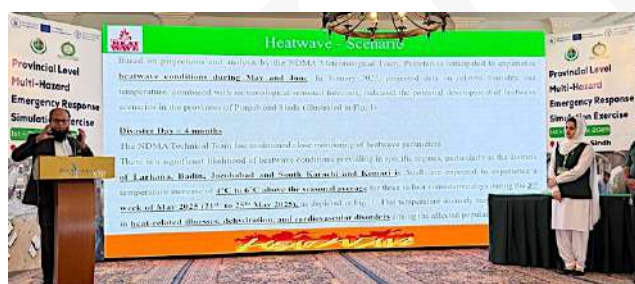
### 16) Academia Syndicate:

Academia represented by faculty and students actively participated in the simulation exercise by sharing their responses and insights on all four disaster scenarios. Their involvement went beyond theoretical input, offering practical recommendations and best practices drawn from research, case studies, and past disaster experiences. Academic representatives facilitated informed discussions with responders and



stakeholders, emphasizing the importance of evidence-based decision-making in disaster management. Academics also stressed the importance of integrating disaster risk management (DRM) into formal education through curriculum development, capacity-building workshops, and simulations.

**17) Heat wave Syndicate:** The heat wave syndicate presented a detailed plan to address extreme heat events. The syndicate outlined a comprehensive preparedness and response strategy. Key interventions included; the establishment of heat stabilization camps and medical camps, operationalization of emergency operation centers (EOCs), and the development of heat wave-specific SOPs. Emphasis was placed on collaboration with humanitarian partners to ensure the delivery of essential services such as safe drinking water, emergency medical care, nutritional support, and cooling centers. The syndicate also stressed the need for public awareness campaigns, improved urban design, a plantation drive to reduce urban heat islands, and targeted support for vulnerable populations. Additional measures recommended included school closures during peak heat periods, establishment of heatstroke wards, flexible working hours, worker protections, and maintaining uninterrupted power and water supply to critical infrastructure. The syndicate's approach highlighted a proactive, multi-sectoral strategy to minimize the health and socio-economic impacts of extreme heat.



**18) Urban Flooding Syndicate:** The syndicate while responding to the urban flooding scenario of Hyderabad city, emphasized that risk assessment and early planning had already identified the most flood-prone areas, and vulnerability mapping of essential infrastructure had been conducted. Coordination was established with key agencies such as PDMA, WASA,





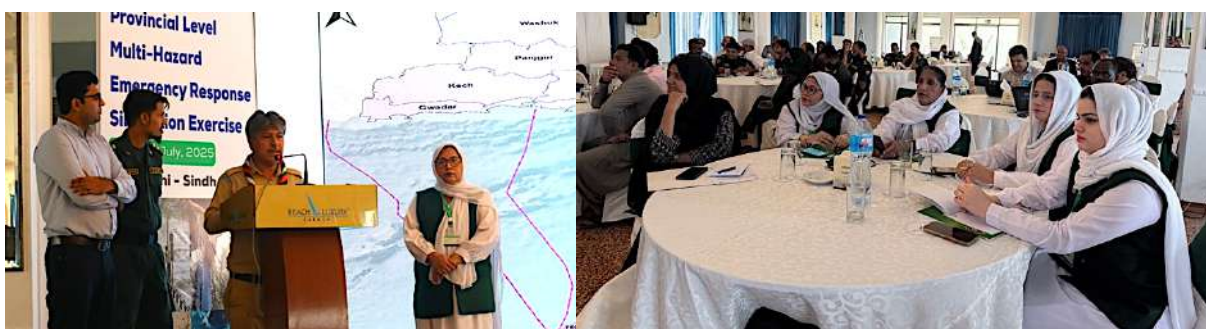
and the Meteorological Department to activate early warning systems. Emergency response planning included setting up a district-level control room, allocating emergency funds for logistics, and pre-positioning of vital supplies. The syndicate also highlighted the importance of community was engaged through sensitization campaigns, announcements, and collaboration with mosques and schools to prepare for emergency sheltering.

19) **Riverine Flooding Syndicate:** The Riverine Flooding Syndicate presented a detailed scenario of a complex flood emergency in Dadu district triggered by a persistent monsoon system, intense hill torrents from the Kirthar and Suleiman Ranges, and high discharge from the Indus River at Sukkur Barrage. In response, the syndicate described a multi-agency coordination strategy involving Rescue 1122, the armed forces and humanitarian organizations such as FRDP, IRC, SRSO, and Alkhidmat.



Dewatering efforts were coordinated with municipal authorities, while the Irrigation and Public Health Engineering Departments were tasked with embankment protection. Relief camps were planned in partnership with locally active NGOs under the guidance of PDMA Sindh. Several schools, pre-identified as safe shelters were utilized to accommodate affected population. A district-level control room was also activated to coordinate the situation. Communication with the public was maintained through local media and worship places coordinated by the District Information Officer, while volunteers from nearby districts assisted in evacuation and relief distribution.

20) **Coastal hazard syndicate:** The Cyclone Syndicate presented a detailed response based on the hypothetical scenario of Cyclone Kiran 2025, with landfall anticipated along coastal Sindh, affecting urban and rural populations in Karachi and Thatta districts. Key



evacuation corridors were identified for both Karachi and Thatta: Clifton via Shahrah-e-Faisal, DHA via Korangi Expressway, and Thatta via the National Highway (through Makli). The syndicate made the use of a mass alert system—leveraging SMS, radio, TV, and social media to inform the public, in advance.

21) Designated relief camps were planned across both districts, including the Malir Cantonment, Korangi Town Hall, University of Karachi Gymnasium in Karachi, Makli Stadium, Government College Sakro, and Ketu Bunder High School in Thatta. The University of Karachi Gymnasium was expected to accommodate the largest proportion (50%) of evacuees in the metropolitan area. Each camp was assigned a designated focal point, coordination desk, and a medical triage area to ensure smooth operations and immediate care for those in need. In terms of services, the camps were planned to be equipped with temporary latrines, water tanks, and hygiene kits. Meals would be provided through PDMA, and local humanitarian partners.

22) The syndicate also highlighted key elements such as 24/7 availability of Basic Health Units (BHUs) for medical support, mobile teams for health screening, and the importance of uninterrupted electricity for critical infrastructure. The focus remained on reducing casualties, preventing disease outbreaks, and ensuring safety for vulnerable populations. The presentation concluded with a strong emphasis on coordinated command structures, clarity of roles, and logistics planning to manage cyclone-related emergencies efficiently.

23) **Humanitarian Syndicate:** The Humanitarian Syndicate focused on a dual-hazard scenario involving hill torrents and riverine flooding, which severely affected Khairpur Nathan Shah, Mehar, Johi, Sial, and Phulji. In response, the team proposed activating local NGO/INGOs forum keeping the DDMA and PDMA in loop. PDMA-NGO alliances, supported by in-kind donations from the private sector and philanthropists. This included critical items like clean water, rescue boats, fuel, and non-food items (NFIs). The presentation also highlighted the importance of community participation in delivering a timely and dignified response.



*Provincial Level Multi-Hazard Simulation Exercise – 2025 | Karachi | Sindh*

24) Procurement was structured into two priority phases. During the first 72 hours, the focus would be on life-saving essentials, safe drinking water, food supplies, emergency shelter, and urgent medical assistance. In the following 7 to 10 days, the strategy shifted toward sustaining displaced populations through organized camp services, basic education continuity, and early recovery kits. The syndicate concluded by stressing the importance of coordinated multi-agency action, ensuring that relief efforts are fast, targeted, and inclusive to avoid duplication and maximize impact.

25) **Armed Forces Syndicate:** The Armed Forces Syndicate presented a comprehensive overview of the military's multi-role contribution across various disaster scenarios, including Cyclone Kiran, flooding in District Dadu, urban flooding in Hyderabad, and extreme heatwave conditions. The presentation emphasized the central role of the armed forces in ensuring safety, civil-military coordination, and operational efficiency during disasters. Key areas of involvement included contingency planning, infrastructure support such as the establishment of tent cities, and the activation of command and control centers, on the request of civilian administration. The Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) was highlighted as a vital node for coordinating with both internal and external agencies, especially in maritime and coastal emergencies.



26) During the simulated events, armed forces supported mass evacuation efforts by deploying helicopters, rescue boats, lifeboats, hover crafts, and diving teams. Medical staff was stationed at field medical camps, and rationing logistics were managed for displaced populations. The response further highlighted the role of the forces in law enforcement and community engagement, particularly in situations requiring coordination with local police and Rangers. Requests for deployment were evaluated at appropriate levels, and once cleared, troops were mobilized for crowd control and relief support. Additionally, the armed forces contributed to firefighting operations, distributed personal protective equipment (PPEs), and managed mass movement logistics during the emergencies.





Reduction (DRR) strategies, and global best practices to be translated into local context ensuring that scientific evidence supports policy and operational planning.

29) **Cash Based Transfers (CBTs) by Humanitarian Organizations:** *Ms. Khadija Abid*, Programme Poly Officer WFP, facilitated a **session followed by role play** on the transformative potential of **Cash-Based transfers (CBTs)** under the theme "Changing Lives – Cash-Based Transfers." She outlined the core reasons for adopting CBTs over traditional food aid: dignity, empowerment, flexibility, cost-efficiency, and the positive impact on local markets. By allowing beneficiaries to purchase food of their choice, CBTs enhance individual agency and support more diverse diets tailored to household needs. Moreover, this method is more agile in emergency settings, where procurement and logistics delays can hinder traditional aid.

30) After the presentation a **structured activity** was carried out **to demonstrate the end-to-end process of implementing strategic cash-based assistance** in a post-disaster context. The activity focused on the use of Mobile Wallet Accounts (MWA) and Cash-in-Hand (CIH) delivery mechanisms, simulating real-world challenges and decision-making in the field. Participants were provided with mock datasets based on vulnerability criteria such as damage to homes, food insecurity, access to essential services, and displacement levels-mirroring the approach used by WFP's Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (VAM) unit.



31) The exercise further guided participants through the process of conducting cash feasibility analysis, selecting appropriate delivery methods, engaging communities, and aligning with financial service providers. Emphasis was placed on coordination with Cash Working Groups to ensure harmonized and people-centered responses. Beneficiary targeting, data validation, and planning for cash disbursement were simulated, followed by the development of monitoring and reconciliation mechanisms, including encashment tracking, post-distribution reviews, and market assessments.



## Mock Drill

32) A well-coordinated **Water Rescue and Camp Management Mock Drill** was conducted on third day of the exercise. Before the drill, Rescue 1122 delivered a comprehensive presentation on **basic life support** including sudden cardiac arrest, adult and infant CPR and the concept of the pre-hospital chain of survival. Following the presentation, Rescue 1122 conducted a live CPR demonstration where the participants had an opportunity of hand-on practice in different groups. A live demo on water rescue was demonstrated by a joint team of Sindh Emergency Service (Rescue 1122) and Edhi Foundation.



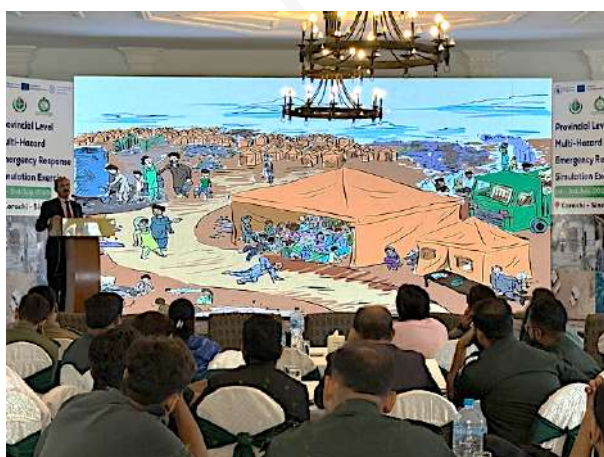
33) **Mr. Faisal Edhi, Chairman Edhi Foundation** witnessed the drill. Besides water rescue techniques by trained rescuers, simple methods to be applied by untrained individuals present at the incident scene, were also shared in length, with the participants so that they may play their role till the time trained rescue teams arrive at the scene. The drill included rapid evacuation, deployment of rescue boats, coordination with command centers, and first responder actions in submerged areas. The audience actively participated in the drill, observing procedures and gaining practical insights into flood response protocols. Basic techniques to reduce the risk of individual downing were also discussed with the under training volunteers and officials.





34) Mr. Waseem Ahmed (Manager Training NIDM) apprised the participants on importance of **Camp Coordination and Camp management (CCCM)**. Before the CCCM drill, he emphasized the importance of camp management in ensuring dignified temporary living conditions for disaster affected populations. He highlighted that CCCM supports coordinated service delivery across sectors within camps, promotes inclusive camp governance through community participation, and facilitates access to essential services such as shelter, water and sanitation, health, food, and protection. Effective CCCM requires clearly defined roles, adherence to international standards, and the involvement of Site Management Support agencies. It must also prioritize protection, gender-sensitive planning, and support for vulnerable groups.

35) The interactive discussion was followed by a **situation based drill** where all participants were divided into different groups including PDMA, DDMA, media, temporarily displaced population, and humanitarian partners. **These groups were engaged in role play** where they implemented the camp coordination and camp management strategies in a challenging scenario. Group participants shared their learning from the mock drill, in the debrief session.





## Closing Session

36) The closing session and certificate distribution ceremony was graced by Mr. Abdul Waheed Sheikh, Additional Chief Secretary (TMR) Government of Sindh, Mr. Naeem Gul from WFP Country Team, Mr. Naeem Iqbal from FAO, and Mr. Abdul Haseeb Jatoi, Deputy Director PDMA Sindh.

37) **Additional Chief Secretary (TMR) Sindh**, reflected on the evolving nature of disasters and the complexity they bring. He stressed how difficult it can be to understand where and how to begin response efforts during a crisis. Mr. Sheikh praised NDMA for introducing a scientific and data-driven approach to disaster preparedness and early warning.



He acknowledged that disasters not only disrupt systems but also challenge social and economic stability. He specially highlighted the inclusion of **Civil Services Academy (TMR)** in the SimEx, which he stated is a long term solution of institutionalizing DRR. He concluded by urging all departments to focus on building resilience and institutional capacity to restore stability after emergencies. **Mr. Naeem Gul** praised the collaborative spirit demonstrated by all stakeholders. He encouraged continued engagement in simulation exercises to build adaptive capacity and operational readiness. **Mr. Abdul Haseeb Jatoi**, Deputy Director PDMA Sindh, appreciated the successful execution of the SIMEX conducted by NDMA. He noted that this simulation has enhanced the coordination and technical preparedness of provincial and district teams. Mr. Jatoi acknowledged the need for such practical exercises to validate contingency plans. Manager Training NIDM, Mr. Waseem Ahmed thanked all the guests and participants for their active participation in the provincial simulation exercise.





## Lessons Learnt

- a. The exercise reinforced that continuous multi-stakeholder engagement-across government agencies, humanitarian partners, media and academia is essential for effective disaster response. The role of PDMA as a central coordination body, at provincial level, was highlighted, particularly in facilitating logistics, swift fund allocation, and inter-agency alignment.
- b. The early warning dissemination system, starting from NDMA to PDMA to DDMA, proved effective in theory. However, challenges remain in ensuring last-mile communication and community-level preparedness based on issued alerts.
- c. The simulation exposed key operational gaps in camp management, including difficulties in beneficiary verification, resource disparities between camps, and lack of standard procedures for dealing with scattered populations. Women's privacy, tribal tensions, ethnicity and child protection were identified as recurring social concerns in displacement sites.
- d. The simulation of mobile wallet accounts (MWA) and cash-in-hand (CIH) mechanisms highlighted the importance of prior feasibility assessments, accurate targeting using vulnerability data, and coordination with financial service providers to ensure transparency and efficiency in delivery.
- e. There was a recognized need to proactively address waterborne diseases and sanitation-related risks, particularly in flood-affected areas. The involvement of the Health Department, WASH teams, and NGOs was seen as vital for preventive health measures.
- f. Displaced communities expressed fear, psychological trauma, and uncertainty, with mistrust in official processes emerging as a critical barrier. Timely, transparent, and culturally sensitive communication was seen as a major factor in improving compliance and cooperation.
- g. Media coverage was noted to both positively and negatively impact public perception. Instances of sensationalism and misinformation highlighted the need for official communication channels and verified data sharing to maintain public trust.

## Recommendations

- a. **Institutionalize Multi-Agency Drills:** Conduct regular, province- and district-level multi-agency disaster drills with PDMA, DDMA, Rescue 1122 and other stakeholders. The drill should ensure the full activation of the NEOC/PEOC/DEOC, during emergencies, with the presence of all key stakeholders including UN agencies, and civil society organizations for real-time coordination and decision-making. The scope of the drill may be increased from table top to field exercises.
- b. **Enhance Use of Digital Tools for Disaster Management:** Utilize hazard maps, mobile apps, and interoperable databases for real-time data tracking, beneficiary registration, and aid transparency. Deploy digital platforms at DDMA and PDMA which must be fully integrated with NEOC to prevent aid duplication and support evidence-based decision-making at provincial and district level.
- c. **Strengthen Camp Management Standards and Implementation:** Disseminate Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on camp management widely, including guidelines on privacy, cultural norms, animal welfare, and inter-camp coordination. Build the capacity of DDMA to apply these standards effectively during disaster responses.
- d. **Scale Up Cash Preparedness Measures:** Conduct district-level cash feasibility studies well in advance of crises. Formalize agreements with Financial Service Providers (FSPs) and enhance targeting tools such as BISP data and WFP's VAM to enable rapid cash assistance when needed.
- e. **Establish a Joint Media Coordination Cell:** Create a unified media cell with designated spokespersons from NDMA, PDMA, and key humanitarian agencies. Train officials in risk communication to provide accurate updates, counter misinformation, and maintain public trust during emergencies.
- f. **Forge Stronger Linkages with Academic Institutions:** Existing partnerships with local and international universities should be effectively leveraged to support data analysis, evidence-based planning, and post-disaster impact assessments. Comparative studies of domestic and global best practices in disaster management can inform more robust, context-sensitive policy development at the federal, provincial, and district levels.
- g. **Curriculum for Civil Services Training Institutes:** There is need and requirement for development and integration of standardized training curriculum into induction and promotion courses conducted at the civil services academies



## Camera Clicks







**National Disaster Management Authority**

[www.ndma.gov.pk](http://www.ndma.gov.pk)