

MOST IMMEDIATE

F.2(E)/2026-NDMA (MW/ Flood Advisory)
**Government of Pakistan Prime
Minister's Office**
National Disaster Management Authority (HQ)
Main Murree Road Near ITP Office, Islamabad



Dated: 20 January 2026

Subject: **Flash Flood Warning**

Reference: Flood Forecasting Division Warning No A-01/2026 dated 20 January 2026 attached as **Annex-A**.

A **strong Westerly Wave** is likely to affect the upper parts of the country from the evening of **21st to 24th January 2026**. Consequently, flows in **River Kabul** along with its associated tributaries may rise during **22nd to 23rd of January 2026**.

2. On account of expected moderate to isolated heavy rainfall coupled with snowfall over the Upper parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (**Swat, Chitral, Buner, Shangla, Lower & Upper Dir, Malakand, Bajaur, Chitral, Mardan, Swabi, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Battagram, Torghar, Haripur, Kolai-Palas, Kohistan**) and **Kashmir**, the risk of **flash flooding** cannot be ruled out.

3. Concerned authorities are advised to remain vigilant and take necessary precautionary measures. **PDMA/DDMAs & local administration** and **emergency services** should ensure readiness to respond to any untoward situation. Residents of vulnerable and low-lying areas, particularly near streams and nullahs, are advised to exercise caution and avoid unnecessary movement during the forecast period. In addition, NDMA has also issued pictorial guidelines for flash flood **Annex-B**. All concerned authorities / Departments to ensure followings:-

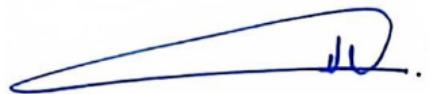
- a. Maintain **enhanced alert level / monitoring** of developing situation to reduce reaction / response times.
- b. All civil agencies / rescue services (Rescue 1122 / Fire Brigade / Ambulance / Civil Defence) to **remain alert and ensure availability of personnel and equipment** during this period, especially at-risk areas.
- c. Identification of **vulnerable points / at-risk communities** and devise **mitigation and safety measures**.
- d. **Launch urgent evacuation** of trapped population using boats, heavy vehicles and helicopters (if required).
- e. **Prioritize vulnerable groups** (women, children, elderly and persons with disabilities).
- f. Fully **operationalize pre-identified** relief camps with adequate capacity.
- g. **Deploy mobile medical units** and health teams in flood-hit areas.
- h. Maintain strict **control on vehicular movement** near inundated areas.
- i. Strengthen vulnerable embankments with sandbags and heavy machinery.

- j. Locals / farmers / cattle herders be **forewarned to shift cattle away from low lying areas** adjacent to River & associated Nullahs.
- k. Ensure availability of fodder for livestock at designated safe sites.
- l. Provision of **POL for back-up generators at water pumping stations** and timely **pre-placement of de-watering equipment for de-flooding**.
- m. DISCOs and relevant Local Administration / Departments to **ensure that necessary arrangements are undertaken** to avoid electrocution incidents and timely restoration of power supply.
- n. Coordinate with concerned departments for **clearance of roads** in case of any blockage / obstruction & waterlogging and pre-placing of necessary emergency equipment at vulnerable / appropriate locations.
- o. Travelers and Tourists are **forewarned about risks posed at flood vulnerable locations and may be diverted to safe lay-by / waiting areas** with sufficient supply of water / food and essential medicines in case of adverse / dangerous road conditions by Police, NH&MP and Local Administrations.
- p. **Highlight critical** needs immediately for **federal support**.

4. **Flood Forecasting Division Only.** Please share regular updates on water flows on major rivers, **especially Eastern Rivers & associated Nullahs every 3 hours** with NDMA.

5. **Press Information Department Only.** With the request for **wider circulation and public awareness**.

6. Forwarded for information / necessary action, please.



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DISTRIBUTION LIST

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ED RF
ED CoE
ED Tech-1

ED Tech-2
Dir C&P
DD NEOC
Dir Log
Dir R&R

FLASH FLOOD WARNING

فلمڈ فور کا سٹنگ ڈویشن لاہور

Flood Forecasting Division Lahore

No. A-01/2026

Government of Pakistan

Ministry of Defence (Aviation Division)

Pakistan Meteorological Department

Dated: 20-01-2026

FLASH FLOOD WARNING

A strong westerly wave is likely to affect the upper parts of the country from the evening of 21st to 24th January-2026 consequently flows in River Kabul along with its associated tributaries may rise during 22nd to 23rd of January-2025.

On account of expected Moderate to Isolated Heavy rainfall coupled with Snowfall over the Upper parts of Khyber Pakhtunkwa (Swat, Chitral, Buner, Shangla, Lower & Upper Dir, Malakand, Bajur, Chitral, Mardan, Swabi, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Battagram, Torghar, Haripur, Kolai-Palas, Kohistan,) and Kashmir, the risk of flash flooding cannot be ruled out.

Concerned authorities are advised to remain vigilant and take necessary precautionary measures. PDMA/DDMA & Local administration and emergency services should ensure readiness to respond to any untoward situation. Residents of vulnerable and low-lying areas, particularly near streams and nullahs, are advised to exercise caution and avoid unnecessary movement during the forecast period.

(Dr. Zaheer Ahmad Babar)
Chief Meteorologist
FFD Lahore

Director General,
Pakistan Meteorological Services,
Islamabad.

Other Distribution:

1. Federal Minister, Ministry of Defence, Islamabad.
2. Secretary to Prime Minister, Islamabad.
3. Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Islamabad.
4. Secretary, Ministry for Water Resources, Islamabad.
5. Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad.
6. Chairman NDMA, Islamabad.
7. DG, Engineering Directorate GHQ, Rawalpindi.
8. Chairman, Federal Flood Commission, Islamabad.
9. Chief Secretary, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
10. Secretary Irrigation, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
11. DG PDMA, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
12. All other concerned & Media.




FLASH FLOODS

FLASH FLOODS IN PAKISTAN:

Pakistan experiences frequent flash floods, particularly during the monsoon season (July-September) as well as in winter season due to heavy rainfall in the mountains and foothills. These rapid inundations cause losses of in life property and infrastructure, especially in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, AJ&K, Gilgit Baltistan and Balochistan provinces

CAUSES OF FLASH FLOOD



HEAVY RAINS

Heavy monsoon rains overwhelm drainage systems, causing flash floods in Pakistan.



GLACIAL MELT

Rising temperatures melt northern glaciers, increasing river flow and causing floods.



DEFORESTATION

Deforestation reduces vegetation cover, causing runoff and floods.



URBANIZATION

Unplanned mapping and concrete surfaces prevent absorption, causing flash floods through rapid runoff.



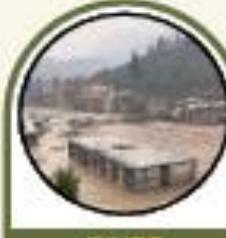
TOPOGRAPHY

Mountainous terrain and steep slopes accelerate water flow, increasing flash flood risk.



CLIMATE CHANGE

More extreme and unpredictable rainfall events directly raise flash flood potential.



RIVER ENCROACHMENT

Narrowing river channels obstruct natural flow, leading to flash flooding.



POOR WATER MANAGEMENT

Inadequate water regulation systems & flood control infrastructure contribute to flooding.



SEDIMENTATION

Silt buildup reduces water reservoirs capacity contribute to flash flood.



INFRASTRUCTURE FAILURES

Breaches of dams, levees or drains unleash flash floods suddenly.

BE PREPARED FOR FLASH FLOODING



ACTIONS BY ORGNAIZATIONS

PRE	DURING	POST
EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS  <p>Develop and implement community level early warning systems to alert communities of potential flash floods.</p>	ADVISORIES & ALERTS  <p>Activate early warning systems to alert communities and provide real-time information on flood progression.</p>	DAMAGE ASSESSMENT  <p>Conduct rapid assessments of infrastructure damage and affected areas to prioritize recovery efforts.</p>
COMMUNITY AWARENESS  <p>Educate residents on flood risks, evacuation routes, and emergency plans.</p>	EVACUATION PLANS  <p>Execute evacuation plans to move residents to safety.</p>	RELIEF ASSISTANCE  <p>Provide immediate relief and assistance to affected individuals.</p>
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT  <p>Build and maintain dams, levees, gabion wall and retention ponds to control floods.</p>	REScue OPERATIONS  <p>Deploy swift-water rescue teams equipped to assist stranded individuals and animals.</p>	HEALTH AND SANITATION  <p>Provide medical aid, clean water, and sanitation to prevent disease after floods.</p>
VEGETATION AND SOIL MANAGEMENT  <p>Promote afforestation and soil conservation to enhance water absorption and reduce runoff.</p>	ROAD CLOSURE AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT  <p>Close roads and manage traffic to prevent accidents and facilitate emergency response efforts.</p>	FLOOD RISK REDUCTION  <p>Long-term measures such as improved drainage systems, land use planning revisions.</p>
LAND USE PLANNING  <p>Enforce zoning to prevent construction in flood zones and preserve drainage.</p>	PROVIDE REAL-TIME UPDATES  <p>Communicate flood updates and safety instructions through multiple channels to keep residents informed.</p>	REHABILITATION & RECONSTRUCTION  <p>Restore infrastructure and rebuild homes promptly.</p>

BE PREPARED FOR FLASH FLOODING



ACTIONS BY COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUALS

PRE



STAY INFORMED

Stay informed about weather forecasts and flood alerts.

DURING



EVACUATE TO HIGHER GROUND

Evacuate to higher ground immediately if advised by authorities.

POST



ASSESS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

Assess damage to property and prioritize safety during cleanup efforts.



PREPARE AN EMERGENCY KIT

Prepare an emergency kit with essentials like food, water, medications and documents.



AVOID FLOOD WATERS

Avoid walking or driving through floodwaters; they may be deeper or faster-flowing than they appear.



SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION

Seek medical attention for injuries or illnesses related to the flood.



KNOW EVACUATION ROUTES

Know the evacuation routes and evacuation plan.



FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

Follow instructions from emergency services and local authorities.



ORGANIZE COMMUNITY CLEANUP

Organize community cleanup efforts to remove debris and restore infrastructure.



EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

Establish and maintain early warning systems to alert residents of potential floods.



ENGAGE VOLUNTEERS

Engage volunteers for emergency response and build shelters for displaced residents.



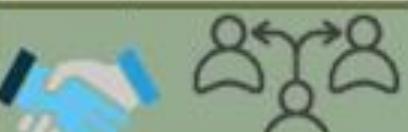
PROVIDE SUPPORT SERVICES

Provide support services such as counselling and relief assistance to affected individuals and families.



CONDUCT DRILLS

Conduct drills and exercises to practice evacuation procedures.



COORD WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES

Coordinate with neighbouring communities and authorities for flood condition, mutual aid and support.



FLOOD MITIGATION MEASURES

Implement long-term flood mitigation measures like improving drainage systems and resilience.