




NDMA Plan for Disaster Contingencies Winter - January to March 2026

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) - Pakistan

NDMA - WINTER CONTINGENCY PLAN (JANUARY TO MARCH 2026)

1. **General**. Pakistan experiences a diverse winter season from **January to February (March in hilly areas)**, characterized by snowfall, primarily in the Northern regions. This season brings various hazards such as avalanches, landslides, cold waves, blizzards, and fog/Smog across different parts of the country. In recent years, climate change-induced extreme weather patterns have further exacerbated these challenges, presenting unprecedented risks to communities and infrastructure.

2. **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**, under the mandates defined in **Clauses 9 (a) and 9 (b) of National Disaster Management Act 2010 (Annexure A)**, holds a central role in overseeing disaster management activities. Guided by the **PR3 framework** (Preparedness, Response, Recovery, and Rehabilitation), NDMA ensures the effective coordination of disaster-related efforts. While the Act delegates disaster management responsibilities to provincial and federating units, NDMA facilitates a unified approach by issuing **early warnings, guidelines and advisories** to federal and provincial departments, disaster management authorities, and rescue services. This enables timely mitigation measures and the development of contingency plans to address anticipated hazards.

3. In collaboration with federal and provincial stakeholders, NDMA has developed the **National Winter Contingency Plan (January to March 2026)**. This comprehensive plan incorporates:

   a. Input/ Scenarios.

   b. **Forecasted Seasonal Outlook {Disaster Early Warning (DEW-1) from January to March 2026}**.

   c. Consideration of the **likely impacts of climate change**.

4. Plan outlines detailed **guidelines for all tiers of disaster management** and other relevant stakeholders. These guidelines focus on: -

   a. Mitigation of **potential winter hazards**.

   b. Preparedness measures for the most likely and least likely scenarios.

   c. Mounting a **timely and effective response** to disasters.

   d. Immediate relief and recovery measures.

5. By adopting a collaborative and proactive approach, **National Winter Contingency Plan (January to March 2026)** aims to safeguard lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure during the winter season while ensuring a robust recovery and rehabilitation process, where required.

6. **Aim**. The aim of the **Winter Contingency Plan (January to March 2026)** is to ensure timely preparedness, effective coordination and efficient response to winter-related hazards across Pakistan, including extreme cold, heavy snowfall, avalanches, fog, smog, landslides, and rain-induced emergencies. Plan seeks to minimize loss of life, protect critical infrastructure, maintain essential services and strengthen community resilience through proactive measures and inter-agency collaboration.

7. **Scope**. Plan encompass following: -

   a. **Part I - General Aspects**

      (1) Hazard Profile.

      (2) Responsibilities and Sequential Actions.

      (3) Preparedness Phase.

      (4) Early Warning.

      (5) Response - Rescue, Relief & Early Recovery Phase.

      (6) Coordination Aspects.

   b. **Part II - Threat and Vulnerabilities**. Disaster Early Warning (DEW-1).

   c. **Part III - National Response Guidelines for Winters (January to March 2026)**

      (1) Snowfall/ Rainfall Safety Guidelines for Rural/ Mountainous Areas.

      (2) Winter Smog Guidelines for Pakistan.

      (3) Thunderstorm & Lightning.

      (4) Key Guidelines for Winter Travel Safety.

      (5) Home & Car Winterized Checklist.

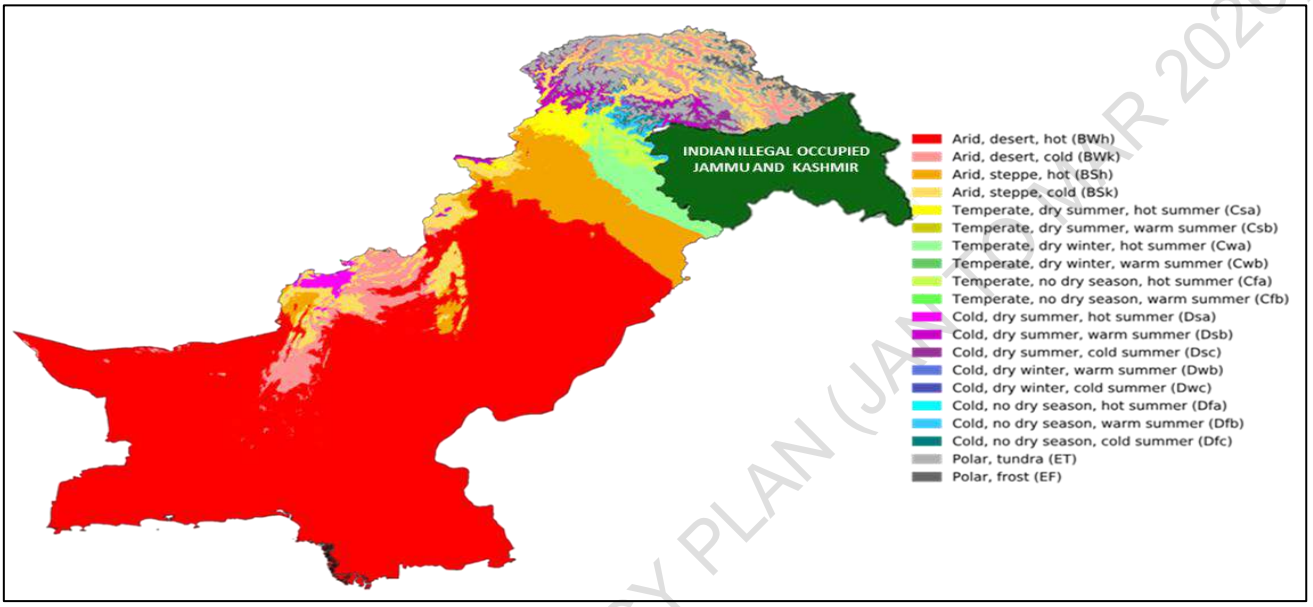
      (6) Guidelines for Hypothermia & Frostbite.

      (7) Guidelines for Avalanche.

PART I - GENERAL ASPECTS

Hazard Profile

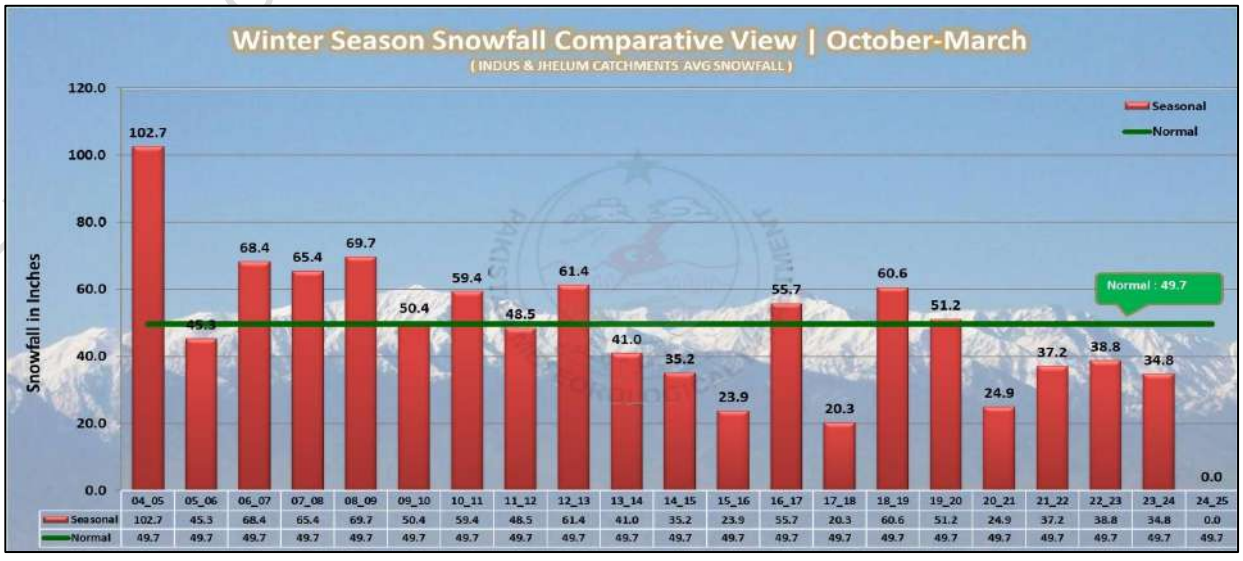
1. **Climatic Zones**. Pakistan is divided into five climatic zones (Map-I below) based on severity of winters. Impacts of likely winter hazards in each zone varies because of different levels of precipitation during the season. These zones encompass all provinces of the country; Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh, Gilgit Baltistan and the State of Azad Jammu & Kashmir.



Map-I Climate Zone

2. **National Hazard & Risk Profile**

a. **Heavy Snowstorms/ Blizzards**. Blizzards are severe snowstorms marked by strong, sustained winds and low visibility, often lasting for extended periods of 4 to 5 hours. Regions at risk of this hazard include the mountainous and hilly areas of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Galiyat region, and AJ&K.



Graph-I below depicts data of last 20 years of average snow fall during winters.
{Graph-I Catchments Average Winter Season Snowfall (Inches)}

b. **Cold-wave**. A cold wave is a weather phenomenon marked by a rapid drop in temperature

within a 24 hour period due to cooling air. In Pakistan, a cold wave occurs when temperatures fall 4.5°C below the seasonal average. Such conditions require heightened precautions to protect lives, agriculture/ livestock from the intense cold and increase the demand for home heating. While current forecasts indicate temperatures may remain above normal during this period, the occurrence of short-duration cold-wave events cannot be ruled out due to increased climate variability, particularly during January and February and in higher elevation areas.

c. **Freezing Rain/ Ice-storms**. It's a winter storm marked by the accumulation of freezing rain that forms a thick, often damaging layer of ice on surfaces. To be classified as an ice storm, ice accumulation generally needs to reach at least 0.25 inches (6.35 mm). This build-up coats everything it contacts - trees, power lines, roads and buildings - resulting in a hazardous, slick glaze that can cause significant disruption and damage. Areas which can be affected by this include mountainous/ hilly areas of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan, Galiyat Region and AJ&K. Though as forecasted temperatures may remain above normal, however, possibilities of freezing rains/ ice-storms cannot be ignored. While current forecasts indicate temperatures may remain above normal during this period, the potential for localized freezing rain or ice-storm conditions cannot be fully ruled out, particularly in higher elevations where microclimatic effects prevail.

d. **Hailstorms**. A hailstorm is a severe thunderstorm distinguished by the formation and descent of hail - balls or chunks of ice ranging in size from small pellets to large stones. Hailstones form within intense updrafts in storm clouds, where water droplets are lifted to freezing altitudes and freeze. As these hailstones are circulated within the storm, they gather additional layers of ice with each pass, growing larger until they become heavy enough to fall to the ground. Events can occur in any part of the country if appropriate hydro-meteorological conditions are met.

e. **Landslides**. Northern areas of Pakistan are at considerable risk of landslides. Sediment disasters i.e., landslides are defined as the phenomena that causes direct or indirect damage to lives and property through a large-scale movement of soil and rocks. Sediment disasters are likely to occur in mountainous areas of Pakistan due to the geological composition of mountain slopes and their inherent instability. Landslides mostly occur after heavy hydro-meteorological activity or seismic events which weaken the soil/ ground. In particular, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan and AJ&K are vulnerable to landslides because of topography.

f. **Smog**. According to the winter outlook, temperatures during January to March are likely to remain near or slightly above normal, and rainfall is expected to remain below average

across much of the country. Under such dry and stable meteorological conditions, areas in Punjab and low-lying plains of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa may continue to experience accumulation of air pollutants due to limited dispersion. Though major crop-stubble burning typically subsides after the harvest season, ongoing emissions from vehicular traffic, industrial operations, brick kilns and domestic heating systems can persist and maintain elevated concentrations of particulate matter. During calm nights or early-morning hours, especially when temperature inversions or weak wind conditions occur, these pollutants can remain trapped near the surface, leading to episodes of poor visibility and degraded air quality. Such conditions pose serious health hazards for vulnerable populations and may disrupt transportation and other daily activities. Given the expected continuation of relatively dry, mild winters and limited rainfall during the January-March 2026 period, smog episodes, though perhaps less intense than peak season, remain a realistic hazard to be addressed proactively.

g. **Fog**. Fog is a common occurrence that forms when water vapour condenses into tiny water droplets suspended in the air, creating a low-lying cloud. This fog can greatly reduce visibility, impacting outdoor activities, especially motor transport and aviation. Regions most affected by this phenomenon include the low-lying plains of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Islamabad and AJ&K.

h. **Drought**. A drought is a prolonged period of below-normal rainfall that leads to reduced water availability that affect agriculture, water supply and the natural environment. In Pakistan, droughts can have severe consequences, especially in arid and semi-arid regions like Balochistan and Sindh where water scarcity is already a pressing issue. The impact includes reduced crop yields and food insecurity which can lead to economic losses for farming communities and increase reliance on imported food. Water shortages during droughts also strain urban and rural water supplies affecting daily life and hygiene. Additionally, droughts can lead to environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity and increased desertification, which can harm Pakistan's natural resources and make recovery more difficult. The rainfall deficit across Western and Southwestern Balochistan has further intensified during the period from May to mid-December 2025. This deficit is accompanied by an increase in the number of Consecutive Dry Days (CDD), which further exacerbated drought conditions in the affected areas. However, January-February-March (JFM) 2026 seasonal outlook indicates normal to slightly above-normal precipitation over most parts of the country, with the highest positive anomalies projected for Northwestern regions, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Western Punjab and parts of Western Balochistan. In contrast, Kashmir and Eastern Gilgit-Baltistan are expected to receive near-normal to slightly below-normal precipitation during the same period. While these

forecasted climatological conditions are likely to partially alleviate existing meteorological drought, the risk of drought cannot be entirely ruled out, particularly in vulnerable regions.

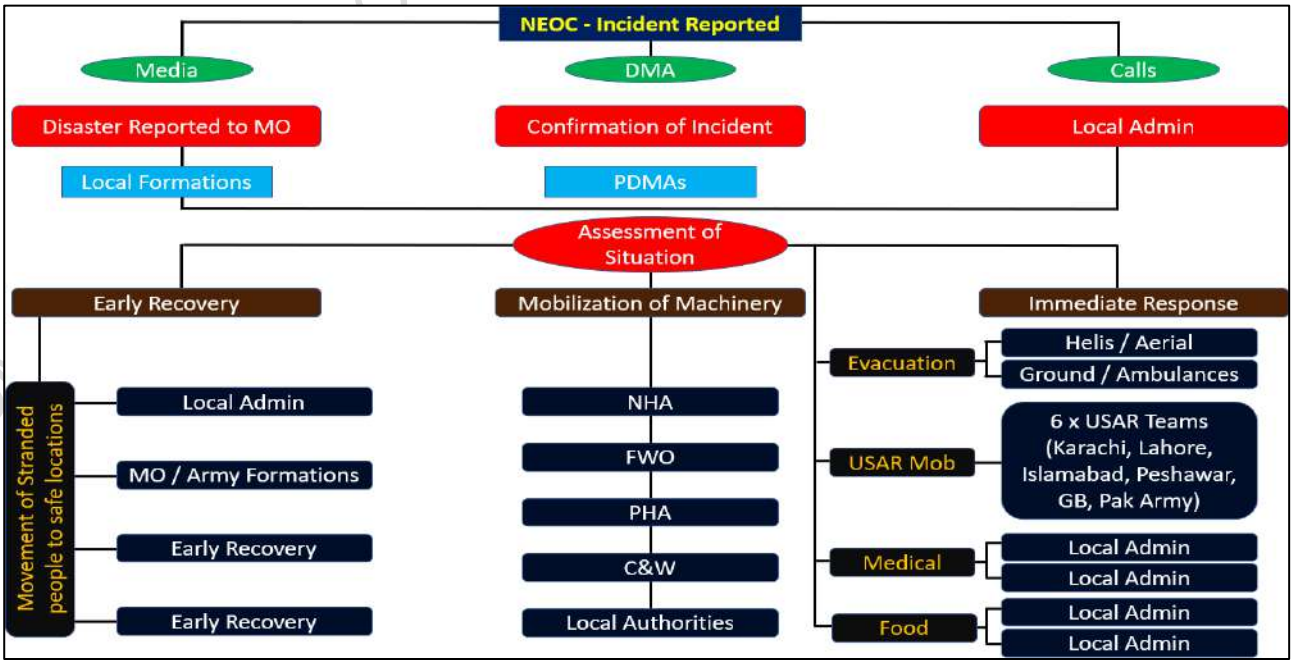
i. **Avalanche**. Due to the expected rise in temperatures during March and the delayed onset of seasonal snowfall, the stability of snowpacks in Pakistan's high-altitude regions is expected to weaken further. Warmer temperatures in early spring accelerate the melting of older snow layers, while late and uneven snowfall creates weak bonding within the snowpack structure. This unstable layering significantly increases the likelihood of avalanche incidents in the mountainous areas of Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

j. **Forest Fire**. Due to the persistence of dry weather conditions and forecasts indicating below-normal precipitation in the coming days, the moisture content in forest vegetation, shrubs, and undergrowth is expected to decline further. This prolonged dryness significantly increases the likelihood of forest fires, particularly in the vulnerable regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Balochistan and Margalla Hills.

Responsibilities & Sequential Actions

3. **Responsibility Matrix**. Following graphical representation highlights the basic responsibilities of departments and is followed by sequence of actions by various stakeholders in line with their tasks and functions in case of emergency/ disaster like situation. The actions under the contingency plan are set in motion as soon as an early warning/ alert is issued, based on developing weather system.

4. **Sequence of Actions**. From occurrence/ reporting of an incident sequence of actions envisaged from concerned stakeholders is depicted below (Table-1).



(Table - 1 - Sequence of Actions)

Preparedness Phase

5. **Major Actions**. Measures essential for proactive preparations by stakeholders: -

   a. **Coordination Conferences**. Special conferences by relevant stakeholders on occurrence of any extreme events will assist timely decision-making process.

   b. **Resource Mapping**. Resource mapping of respective Provinces/ State and its timely intimation to NDMA.

   c. **Placement of Earth Moving Machinery**. Placement of earth/ snow moving machinery at vulnerable areas for timely clearance of roads from landslides/ debris/ snow.

   d. **Conduct of Mock Exercises and Reconnaissance**. It is critical for responders to carry out vulnerable areas reconnaissance to develop acquaintance/ gather local information.

   e. **Provision of Timely Information**. Timely provision of occurrence based SITREP by PDMAs/ GDMA/ SDMA/ ICT. PDMAs/ GDMA/ SDMA/ ICT to make use of NDMA's standardized SITREP format, which has been forwarded already to all stakeholders.

   f. **Updating of Database**. DDMAs to update miscellaneous data which may be needed during disaster response e.g., database of volunteers, miscellaneous resources, medical/ health facilities, stocking level of warehouses etc.

   g. **Baseline Data**. For calculating effects/ impacts of disasters/ emergency impacts, it is essential to have baseline data for comparison with post emergency/ disaster situation.

   h. **Awareness Campaign**. All available communication channels should be employed to raise public awareness, especially those that are most effective in specific regions.

   i. **Inclusion of Drones/ Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)/ Robotics**. Drones, UAVs, robotics have emerged as a vital technology in modern disaster management, proving highly effective during the preparedness phase. Theses enable rapid aerial assessment of vulnerable areas, support hazard mapping, quick response and assist in monitoring environmental changes with high-resolution imagery. They also enhance early-warning systems, improve situational awareness for planning, and help identify potential risk zones before an event occurs. Integrating these into preparedness/ response activities strengthens decision-making, resource allocation, and overall disaster readiness.

6. **Measures against Winter Hazards**. Following protective measures based on past experiences will help to mitigate disaster/ losses: -

   a. Preparation of hazard maps of major cities, districts and known vulnerable areas based on recorded history for sensitization, awareness, early warning and evacuation of vulnerable communities.

   b. Identification of vulnerable areas especially near communication arteries and population.

   c. Awareness and sensitizing local community and tourists of possible risks and adherence to laid down guidelines.

d. Community based early warning system as part of response mechanism be instituted in landslide/ avalanche prone areas by nominating local notables to ensure that alerts are timely disseminated. Measures may include use of watchmen, loudspeakers/ megaphones, loudspeakers of Mosques, whistles, SMS alerts, telephone and any other arrangements of similar nature.
e. Capacity building of Municipal Corporations with due attention to availability of requisite number of heavy-duty machineries for pre-placing/ deployment at most vulnerable areas.
f. Water channels widening, dredging/de-silting channels to prevent waterlogging/saturating.
g. Removal of encroachments/ hinderances to provide full access/ way to traffic and rescue personnel with their machinery when in case of need.
h. Serviceability and operability of available machinery with sufficient fuel etc.
i. Provision of backup electricity arrangements in form of generators.
j. Establishment of committees for planning and implementation of contingency plans at municipal level. Provision of dedicated manpower for DM management.
k. Identification of likely evacuation sites and relief/ medical camps.
l. Coordination with all stakeholders for keeping communication arteries open and immediate mobilization of required machinery in time of need.
m. Identification/ coordination with local health officials for stocking medicine, in case of being cut off or likely outbreak of health emergency, especially against diseases likely in winters.
n. Availability of paramedics and ambulances with respective district health departments.
o. Coordination with private and government hospitals to prepare a synergized plan for meeting emergent requirements.
p. Measures for utility supply to inaccessible areas especially drinking water.
q. Pruning of trees especially close to roads, electricity supply lines, homes/ infrastructure.
r. Emergency contact numbers of local and other emergency services must be displayed at various locations and made part of all coordination meetings for maximum awareness.
s. Fixing of loose billboards, hoardings, sing posts and other similar fixtures must be ensured.
t. Encouragement of communities to remain indoor and restrict movement immediately upon development of weather and especially when a weather advisory/ alert is issued.
u. Vulnerability based stocking be carried out by administration/ line departments.
v. Utilization of all possible platforms for spreading required information and keep local radio stations involved in relaying critical information.
w. Utilizing NDMA disaster Alert mobile application as pictorial guidelines and alerts will be issued on NDMA's mobile application for general public.
x. Use indigenous and latest methods for control avalanches.

Early Warning

7. **Early Warning/ Advisories**. NDMA and PMD will be the focal organizations for providing weather based early warnings (NEOC/ PMD will be the primary source of weather information and will issue all official weather forecasts and early warnings). NDMA will issue advisories/ guidelines/ instructions/ action plans for all DM stakeholders, while provincial/ district DM authorities and line departments will be responsible for issuing and implementing area/ region specific instructions for effective coordination/ actions: -

a. Seasonal outlook will be updated by NEOC/ PMD, at least once a month, especially highlighting a major departure from original outlook.

b. Weather updates will be issued as per developing situation by NEOC/ PMD.

c. Specific weather advisory of NDMA and PMD will be issued by respective PDMAs to disseminate warning to district authorities/ relevant stakeholders via **Fax/ Email/ Telephone/ SMS/ WhatsApp Message/ X** and will be immediately uploaded on website/ portals and may also be incorporated into the NDMA's mobile application (Pak NDMA Disaster Alert) to reach a wider audience.

d. NDMA and PMD will also release breaking caption/ news or tickers to all major TV stations / Channels including PTV. Moreover, PMD has also constructed a fully equipped studio for TV broadcast in its own building. Radio broadcasts will also be used from national and FM radio stations to keep the public aware of any upcoming disaster/ related advisories.

e. NEOC/ PMD will nominate a focal person authorized to deal with weather forecast which will be notified to all concerned, will be readily available to all stakeholders, when required.

f. NEOC and PMD will also critically analyse and share any possibility of blizzards & cold waves in the country and will timely intimate the same to all relevant stakeholders.

g. NDMA Disaster Alert mobile application will communicate alerts regularly.

8. **Community Early Warning through Advisories**

a. Public Service Messages (PSMs) through print/ electronic media must be generated forthwith by PDMAs/ SDMA/ GBDMA, DDMAs and relevant ministries and departments.

b. Bill-boards, posters, banners, brochures and warning signs may be used to educate/ warn people of at-risk areas.

c. All concerned departments and local communities must be apprised about the forecast and it's likely unfolding at the onset.

d. Community must be informed about safer places, relief camps and evacuation plan by concerned departments.

e. To ward off false warnings, all DM authorities will ensure the implementation of Clause 35 of the NDM Act 2010.

f. Community based early warning system must be institutionalized as part of response

mechanism in areas vulnerable to landslides and avalanches by following means:

(1) Placing of around the clock lookouts especially at night or during the period of intense rain/ snow.

(2) Use of sirens or announcements on loud speakers from Mosques and vehicles for mass awareness and sensitizing local communities. These measures will be ensured by all DDMA.

(3) Lighting fire and drum beating by the people living at higher places in such areas.

(4) Practicing of evacuation drills.

(5) Conduct of mock exercises and reconnaissance of vulnerable/ at-risk areas.

g. SMS alerts will be issued through the PTA exclusively to areas that are affected or under threat, utilizing GIS-based fencing.

Response - Rescue, Relief and Early Recovery Phase

9. **Tiered Response Approach**. Drawing on the lessons learned from past contingencies, disasters and recognizing the structural challenges in our response mechanisms, a structured tiered response has been developed to strengthen disaster mitigation and management:

a. **1st Tier**. Local response by DDMAs with support from district, provincial, and Armed Forces / Civil Armed Forces resources.

b. **2nd Tier**. Provincial support to district authorities.

c. **3rd Tier**. National response by NDMA in support of provinces, GB, AJ&K, and ICT, with or without external assistance.

10. **Disaster Management (DM) Planning**

a. PDMAs to ensure resource mapping of volunteers {Civil Defence, Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Boy Scouts & Girl Guides, University students etcs}, UN Agencies, NGOs/ INGOs and ambulances at district level.

b. Coordination must be carried out with Civil Defence, PRCS, Pakistan Boy Scouts Association, Pakistan Girl Guides Association and University students etcs at district level to provide support at various relief camps under the overall guidance and supervision of the district administration.

c. Location of relief camps must be earmarked and necessary administrative arrangements be made accordingly. It must be incorporated on past experiences and should be need based. Relief camps should be accessible/ closer to main arteries so that relief goods are easily delivered to the affected people.

d. Foolproof measures shall be planned and implemented to protect relief camps established for Temporarily Displaced Persons (TDPs) during disaster.

e. Resource Mapping and prepositioning of dedicated earth moving machinery at landslide/ avalanche erosion prone highways/ link roads and isolated mountainous areas of KP,

AJ&K and GB by respective Governments. Ministry of Communications, NHA, FWO, respective Communication and Works Departments and other relevant organizations to ensure such arrangements alongside Bailey Bridges and enhanced number of maintenance teams at all critical sections especially regions highlighted in hazard maps.

f. All concerned stakeholders shall update their contingency plans in accordance with NDMA's *National Contingency Plan – Winters (January - March 2026)* and relevant SOPs. Provincial, State and Gilgit-Baltistan authorities shall compile and review the corresponding DDMA plans.

g. To identify most vulnerable communities for sensitization, awareness, early warning and evacuation in emergency, district hazard must be updated down to union council level.

h. All concerned authorities shall ensure that planning for vulnerable groups is informed by authenticated district level data disaggregated by gender age and disability.

i. Logistic stocking to provide immediate relief as per National Stocking policy by all concerned to be ensured.

11. **Mitigation Works/ Schemes**. All projects and schemes underway must be completed immediately. PDMAs/ SDMA/ GBDMA and ICT administration to formulate monitoring mechanism for immediate completion where possible, and taking required measures for maximum safety where the projects/ schemes are likely to complete later (during/ after the season).

12. **Rescue Measures**

a. Availability and serviceability of rescue equipment will be ensured by all concerned.

b. Respective departments/ organizations/ parent ministries/ federal departments will be responsible to carryout audit of equipment held with sub-departments and expedite measures to make up deficiencies through procurement/ coordination.

c. Equipment be strategically placed, as to respond to contingencies in different regions.

d. Availability of trained operators be coordinated and ensured during entire season.

e. Readiness of Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) teams be ensured for rescue operations in collapsed buildings/ landslides in province or other provinces (when requisitioned).

f. Availability of staff of all relevant departments especially hospitals and emergency services on holidays and during active weather systems must be ensured.

g. PDMAs/ SDMA/ GBDMA and ICT administration will incorporate input from Rescue 1122, emergency services, civil defence, volunteers and police/ law enforcement agencies in planning process for effective coordination for response/rescue operations.

h. PDMAs/ SDMA/ GBDMA/ ICT administration will coordinate with respective governments / Departments for aerial support for immediate evacuation.

i. Aviation effort can be requisitioned from Askari Aviation. Expenditures will be borne by respective province/ region.

13. **Rescue Operations**

a. Forced evacuation must be planned in case of limited warning time, by utilising all available resources at provincial/ district levels.

b. DDMAs as first responders should mobilize communities for disaster response. This will encourage community involvement, strengthen their own efforts and also address the issue of absence of human resource.

c. Priority in rescue/ evacuation will be given to vulnerable groups (age, disabled, women and children).

d. Ministry of Communications, NHA, FWO, Pakistan Railways, PTA and Pakistan Post will restore the communication infrastructure/ alternate routes/ means of delivery, as early as possible.

e. SUPARCO will provide satellite imageries and assessment of projected developments, where possible. Pre, during and post season snow cover and its impacts will also be compiled and shared with NDMA and relevant ministries/ departments.

f. Traffic arrangements including the creation of diversions and guidance for tourists shall be made to regulate traffic on national and provincial arteries in the event of infrastructure damage caused by any winter hazard.

g. Disaster tourism must be curbed.

14. **Relief Operations**. Relief operations during winter emergencies will focus on the timely provision of life-saving assistance to populations affected by extreme cold, snowfall, blizzards, avalanches, fog/ smog and associated disruptions. Primary objective is to reduce human suffering, prevent loss of life and stabilize affected communities until normal conditions are restored. All stakeholders should incorporate NDMA's Guidelines on Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA), Minimum Standards of Relief in Camp and Ex-gratia Assistance to the persons affected by natural and man-made disasters, in their respective plans. Moreover, special attention may also be given to following: -

a. **Standardized winter food package** shall be developed in accordance with **local dietary practices and climatic conditions**. Package shall include staple items such as wheat flour or rice, cooking oil or ghee, pulses, and **special nutritional items for infants**, including milk and supplementary foods, as required.

b. To ensure access to clean drinking water, **water purification tablets and filtration systems** shall be pre-positioned in advance at provincial and district levels. Emergency water supply arrangements shall be activated in areas where water sources are disrupted due to snowfall or freezing conditions.

c. Relief distribution shall be conducted through a **fair, transparent, and well-organized mechanism**, based on assessed needs. Distribution modalities shall be finalized in

consultation with **local administration and community representatives** to ensure equitable access and avoid duplication.

d. Based on lessons learned from previous emergencies, **standard relief item lists and specifications** shall be finalized and shared with all DDMAs. These shall also be made publicly available through official platforms to facilitate **need-based donor contributions** during emergencies.

e. Relief packages shall be **culturally appropriate and region-specific**, with special consideration for **pregnant and lactating women, infants, children, elderly persons, and persons with disabilities**. Contingency planning and stockpiling shall incorporate special requirements, including assistive devices where necessary, to support families as a unit.

f. Trained community-based teams **shall support relief operations, including establishment of emergency shelters, distribution of assistance, identification of missing persons, and facilitation of basic services. Active participation of** women from affected communities **shall be ensured, particularly in relief distribution and camp management.**

g. **Provincial and district health departments shall ensure implementation of the** Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) **at the onset of emergencies, with a focus on reducing mortality and morbidity, particularly among women and girls. A** Disease Early Warning System (DEWS) **shall be activated during emergencies, with coordination between provincial health authorities and the** National Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Network (NHEPRN). **Essential medicines and vaccines shall be** stockpiled at the lowest functional tier **to ensure rapid access.**

h. Education departments, in coordination with disaster management authorities, shall implement **Education in Emergencies (EiE) minimum standards** to ensure continuity of learning during winter emergencies through preparedness planning and adaptive learning arrangements.

i. **Dignity, safety, and rights of affected persons** shall be upheld at all stages of rescue, relief, and early recovery. Relief operations shall adhere to principles of **humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and accountability**.

j. Supply chain of relief goods must be maintained and followed in true letter and spirit. DDMAs are the first tier supported by PDMAs to provide immediate relief. Similarly, second tier (PDMAs supported by NDMA) should be ready to render assistance once the stocks of DDMAs are exhausted. Third Tier of NDMA supported by national resources to extend relief support required by the provinces/ regions: -

(1) PDMAs/ GBDMA and SDMA maintains its stocks near vulnerable locations.

(2) NDMA maintains its stocks at strategic locations.

(3) When NDMA third tier logistic support to PDMA is released, PDMAs are responsible to collect the stocks from a particular location.

(4) NDMA stocks will be requisitioned only in case of extreme emergency and with sufficient reaction time.

(5) Distribution of NFIs at site must be avoided. People must be motivated to come to relief camps.

(6) At no point of time would NDMA's stocks placed in mutually shared warehouses to be utilized without prior approval of NDMA.

(7) PDMAs to keep relief stocks maintained as per National Stocking Policy.

15. **Early Recovery/ Damage Assessment**. MIRA is the first step of the Assessment & Monitoring Framework designed to identify strategic humanitarian priorities including scale of a disaster, priority areas of assistance and identify gaps in disaster response after the onset of natural disasters or complex emergencies. NDMA and UNOCHA have developed MIRA with the aim of sharing common procedures and assessment methodology for needs data collection: -

a. In case of need the **MIRA** shall be deployed and **PDMAs** and **DDMAs** shall provide the requisite trained human resources to support its implementation.

b. Rapid assessment will be carried out by NDMA/ PDMAs/ UN/ INGOs/ NGOs to identify needs and priorities of affected and vulnerable communities.

c. Initial report will be shared with Disaster Management Authorities within one week and final report within two weeks.

Coordination Aspects

16. **Inter Provincial/ Regional Coordination**. During management of disasters, inter provincial/ regional coordination mechanism is essential to acquire assistance for affected areas especially in far flung regions for immediate availability of nearby resources in shortest possible time thus reducing sufferings of distressed population.

17. **Coordination Spectrum**

a. All stakeholders will monitor situation by activation of Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs). EOCs will be activated by NDMA, PDMAs/ SDMA/ GBDMA/ ICT and DDMAs, Line departments/ concerned ministries, LEAs and Pakistan Armed Forces and all relevant stakeholders as per respective SOPs.

b. All stakeholders will nominate respective Liaison Officers for NEOC by 30 December 2025.

c. Daily coordination conference will be organized by NDMA in case of an emergency/ disaster in NEOC at 1000 hours. All LOs will attend and brief the conference.

d. Information about any significant event will be interpreted and shared by PMD with NDMA.

e. All significant information will be immediately passed to NEOC by respective PDMAs.

f. Facility of a Cloud Based Video Conference System e.g., Google Meet, Microsoft Team, WebEx & Zoom etc is available at NDMA. Necessary hardware (Cameras) and Software are held with PDMAs/ DM stakeholders to connect to the NDMA. Same may be utilized for effective communication when required. Necessary details of the system are as under:

(1) Point of Contact: Tech E&M and Response Directorate/ Operation Wing NDMA.

(2) Alternate Skype ID: ndmapk

(3) Prior coordination for setting up of video conference required as per SOP.

g. **Coordination with UN Agencies and INGOs/ NGOs**

(1) Support of UN Agencies and INGOs/ NGOs will be utilised in a coordinated manner, mostly in preparedness, relief, post disaster assessments and rehabilitation phases.

(2) Each organization capabilities must be ascertained to ensure its optimal utilisation.

(3) Need based employment of UN Agencies will be regulated by NDMA and PDMAs.

(4) NGOs/ INGOs duly cleared/ approved by concerned ministries will be allowed to assist in relief operations.

18. **Reports and Returns**

a. All PDMAs/ SDMA/ GBDMA and ICT Administration will ensure training of staff to feed data on the portal and same will be utilised for forming cumulative SITREP during the season.

b. NDMA and PDMAs will update the situation on respective websites daily.

c. SUPARCO will provide the imageries of developing situations on daily basis or immediately availability (affected due to cloud cover etc).

d. To ensure a coordinated response, National Humanitarian Network (NHN)/ Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF)/ UN Agencies and PRCS will share location of their stocks and human resource mapping with NDMA/ PDMAs.

e. All PDMAs/ relevant stakeholders will share telephone directory of respective Provinces/ Regions with NDMA and host it at respective website by **30 December 2025.**

19. **Assistance/ Coordination with Ministries/ Departments**. Following ministries/ departments are requested for assistance as mentioned against each: -

a. **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**. Conduct of relief/ rescue operations through Pakistan Armed Forces (helicopters, troops & rescue equipment) when required.

b. **Ministry of Interior (MoI) & Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF)**. Availability of Civil Armed Forces, aviation assets for emergency response, at a short notice.

c. **Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA)**. Airing of public service messages for community awareness on all media channels during prime hours.

d. **Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA)**. To facilitate generation of SMS alerts for early warning, emergency relief and evacuation to required populace.

e. **Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC)**. Provision of timely weather/

flood related information to tourists including protection from dangers of flash floods, landslides, GLOF events etc and help evacuation of stranded tourists through local Government/ Pakistan Armed Forces.

f. **Ministry of Communication (MoC)**. Conduct assessment for early restoration of communication infrastructure. Remain prepared to shift earth moving machinery to areas.

g. **Ministry of Railways (MoR)**. To monitor railway tracks on regular basis and assist transportation of relief goods to affected areas.

h. **Press Information Department (PID)**. Assist in running of awareness campaign through electronic and print media.

i. **Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination (MoNHSRC)**. Coordination for deployment of medical teams and equipment.

j. **SUPARCO**. Provision of pre and post satellite imageries and remote sensing support.

k. **Motorways and National Highway Police**. Ensure **road clearance, traffic management and public awareness** to facilitate safe movement and uninterrupted emergency response during winter emergencies.

20. **Requisitioning of Armed Forces**. Armed Forces will be requisitioned subject to provision of rules/ regulations by PDMAs/ DDMAs only in case of emergency. Aviation support will be coordinated centrally by NDMA based on request of provinces and regions when called to assist in "Aid to Civil Power" under Article 245 of Pakistan's Constitution. Authorities utilizing services from Armed Forces will **bear the cost of assets used** which will be processed immediately after their employment. Armed Forces will be employed for following: -

a. Rescue/ relief operations by field units of Pakistan Army, Navy & Air Force.

b. Aviation support including provision of C-130 by Pakistan Air Force.

c. Support of rescue and medical teams of Armed Forces.

d. Search and rescue in urban areas collapsed structures and landslides/ avalanches by USAR team of Pakistan Army.

21. **Information Management**

a. NDMA, Provincial/ State/ GB DMAs will update respective websites on daily basis during entire season. Mobile App will provide early Warning.

b. In case of a significant activity/ event, it will be updated on 6 hourly.

c. Print/ electronic media/ internet be utilized for dissemination of accurate information.

d. Regular press releases, media tickers and press briefings will be ensured to present real time picture of ongoing activities, developing situations and losses/ damages, if any.

e. To ensure post transmission record as well as redundancy, information will be disseminated through SMS, emails, fax and telephones.

f. SMS/ WhatsApp Groups of stakeholders will ensure real time information sharing.

PART II - THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

DISASTER EARLY WARNING (DEW) - 1

1. Disaster Early Warning-1 (DEW-1) for January, February and March (JFM) 2026 is developed considering the prevailing large-scale ocean atmosphere circulation patterns that generally influence regional climatic factors over Pakistan. Based on multi model analysis, it is projected that Pakistan will experience **near-normal seasonal mean conditions** in the months of Jan, Feb and March. However, higher sub seasonal variability is expected across different regions with major deviation in the North i.e., short cold spells, episodic heavy snow or rain pulses which can lead to winter specific hazards. A quick snapshot of global and regional climatic variabilities monitored for the DEW-1 include:-

a. **El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO)**. ENSO is currently in weak La Nina, however it is expected to become neutral during the JFM season. This indicates the absence of strong El Niño or La Niña forcing, reducing the likelihood of extreme wet or dry conditions driven by the Pacific Ocean.

b. **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)**. Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is transitioning from a weakening Negative Phase back towards a Neutral Phase. A neutral IOD typically limits strong moisture transport from the Indian Ocean towards the subcontinent.

c. **Stronger Siberian High**. Siberian High will be persistently anomalous (very strong or very weak) for the whole January to March 2026 window. Seasonal products point to a mix of conditions, overall country-scale warmth but with the possibility of episodic Siberian High strengthening and attendant cold surges (short duration) especially in January and February. In short; warmer mean season, but risk of short cold-spell events caused by Siberian High pulses.

d. **North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO)**. Several long-range assessments in flagged possible episodes of a negative NAO/ weakened polar vortex during winter 2025-26, which would favour transient blocking and cold outbreaks in mid-latitudes including meridional behaviour of Jetstream that could bring episodic Western Disturbance in Pakistan during late January and beyond, but the timing and persistence of NAO phases remain uncertain.

e. **Overall Implication**. Seasonal averages may appear near normal, but sub-seasonal variability (cold spells, snowfall bursts, rain events) will be high, driven by Western Disturbances, MJO phases, Jetstream variability, and continental pressure systems.

2. **Global DEW**. From January to March 2026, South Asia's climate is expected to be shaped by a transition from weak La Niña conditions toward ENSO-neutral, alongside a neutralizing Indian Ocean Dipole and active mid-latitude circulation. Winter precipitation across the Western Himalayan region, including Northern Pakistan, Northwest India, and Nepal, is likely to be near to slightly above normal at times due to episodic Western Disturbances, while much of central and Southern India,

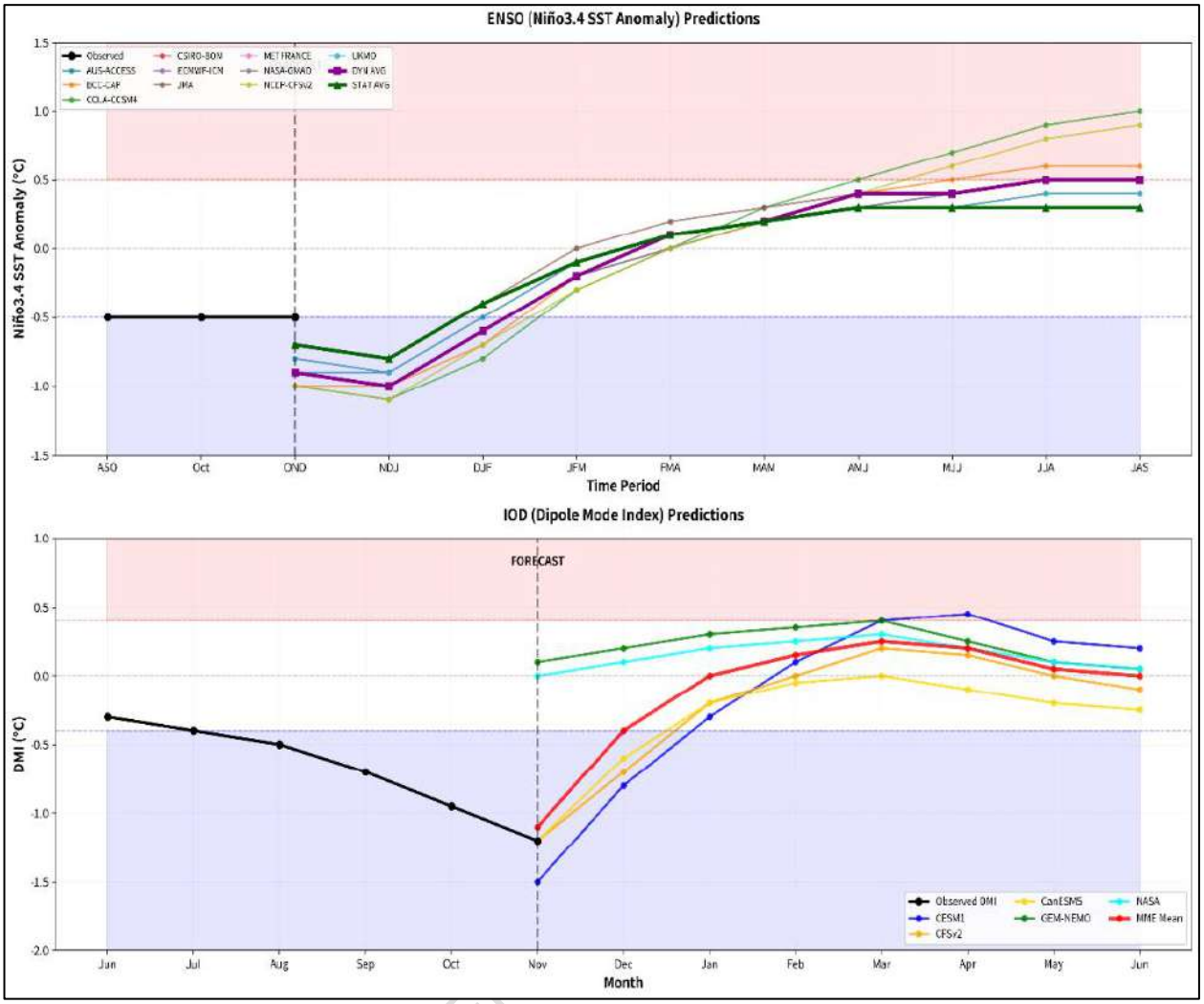
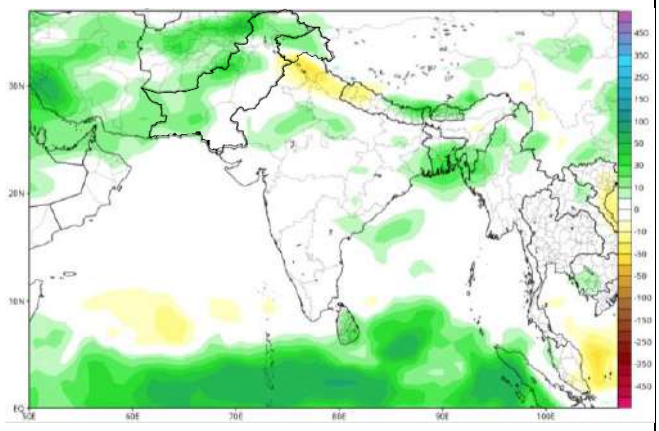


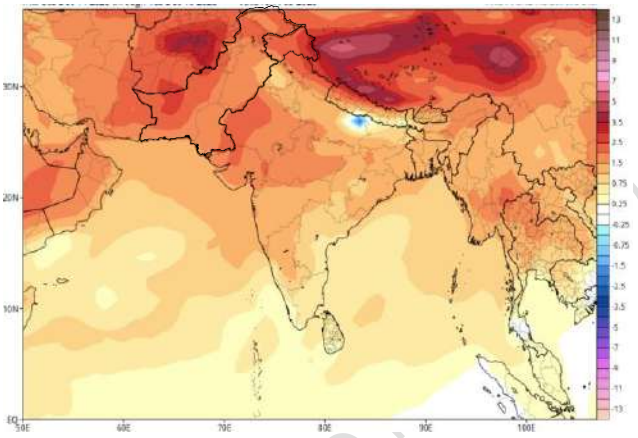
Figure: ENSO and IOD Anomaly

Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka may experience near normal to slightly drier conditions. Temperatures are expected to be cooler than average during January across northern Pakistan, northern India, and Himalayan foothills, driven by cold air incursions associated with the Siberian High, before gradually shifting to near-normal in February and above-normal by March across most of the region. Overall, the season indicates low to moderate climate-related risks, with potential impacts including cold waves, dense fog and air-quality deterioration over the Indo-Gangetic Plain during mid-winter, localized flooding and landslides in mountainous areas during active Western Disturbance episodes and increasing heat stress and early snowmelt concerns toward March, particularly across lowland and urban regions of South Asia.

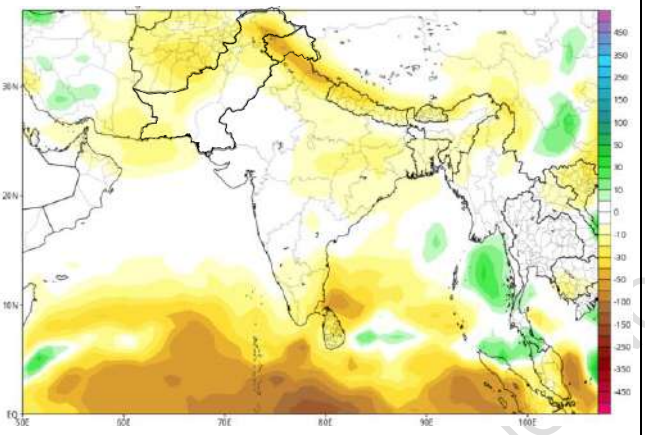
Monthly Maps of DEW-1 (a) Precipitation, and (b) Temperature

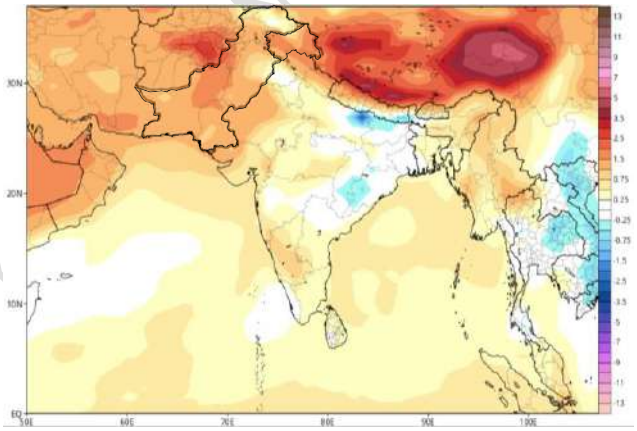
January 2026



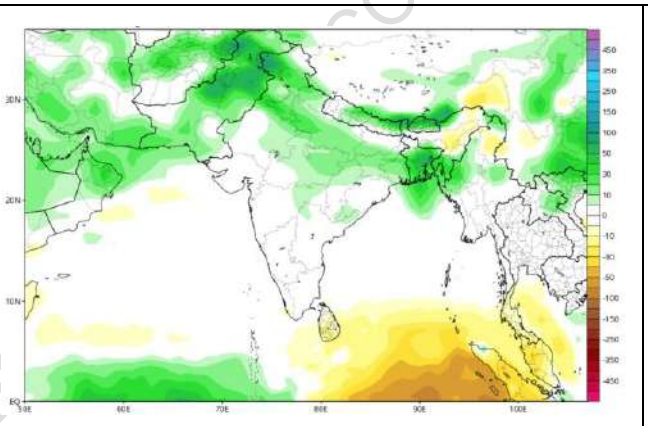


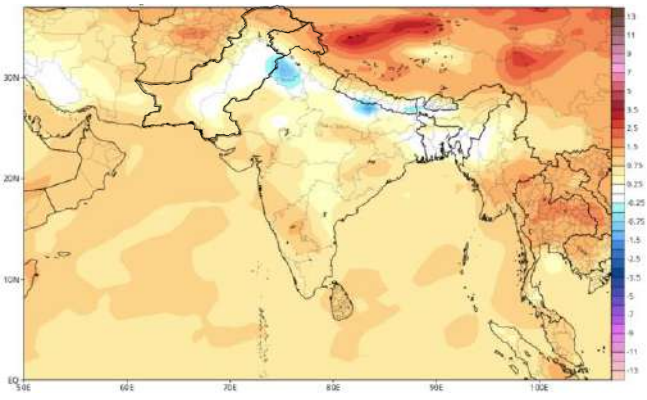
February 2026





March 2026



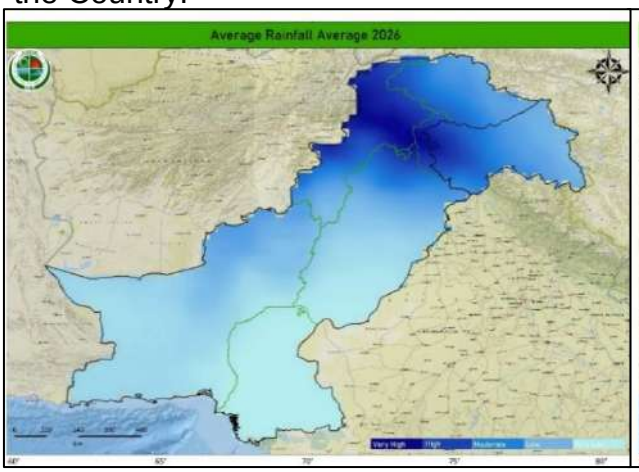


3. **Pakistan Meteorological Outlook**. With both ENSO and IOD remaining neutral, no strong large scale wet conditions are anticipated. Seasonal rainfall over Pakistan during JFM 2026 will therefore mainly depend on:-

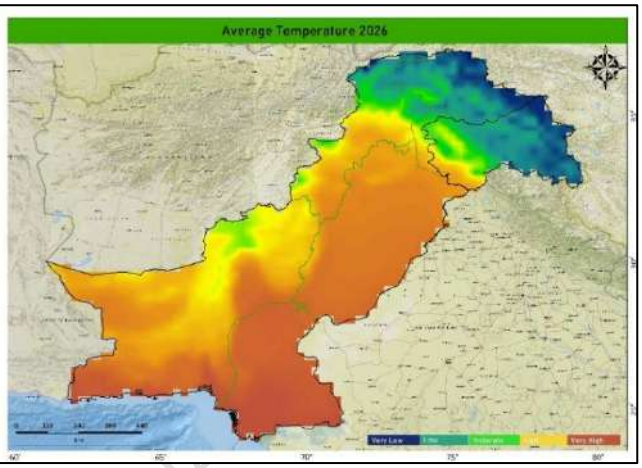
a. The frequency and intensity of Western weather systems.

b. Local and regional atmospheric circulation patterns.

c. As a result, rainfall is expected to remain below normal during early January in Northern regions, followed by a gradual improvement to near-normal conditions during late January and February, while temperatures are likely to remain above normal across most parts of the Country.



Average Rainfall (JFM-2026)



Average Temperature (JFM-2026)

d. **Province-wise Meteorological Outlook (JFM) 2026**

(1) **Punjab**. Precipitation and temperature outlook for Punjab from January – March 2026 shows that: ***Northern Punjab*** will experience Below normal rainfall is expected during early January, with a return to near-normal rainfall during late January and February. For ***Southern Punjab*** rainfall is expected to remain near normal overall while the temperatures are expected to remain above normal across the province.

(2) **Sindh**. Rainfall is expected to remain near normal throughout the JFM season whereas, above-normal temperatures expected, particularly over Southern Sindh.

(3) **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)**. Below-normal rainfall is expected during early January, followed by near-normal rainfall during late January and February in ***Northern KP*** whereas, for ***Southern KP*** rainfall is expected to remain near normal. Temperatures are expected to remain above normal, with higher anomalies over northern KP.

(4) **Balochistan**. Rainfall across most parts of Balochistan is expected to remain near normal whereas, above-normal temperatures are expected, especially over southern Balochistan.

(5) **Gilgit-Baltistan (GB)**. Below-normal precipitation (Rainfall/ Snowfall) is expected during early January whereas conditions are likely to improve to near normal during late January and February. Above-normal temperatures with relatively higher positive anomalies are expected.

(6) **Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K)**. Below-normal rainfall is expected during early January, followed by near-normal rainfall during late January and February. Whereas temperatures are expected to remain above normal.

e. **Summary**. Overall, JFM 2026 climate outlook indicates:-

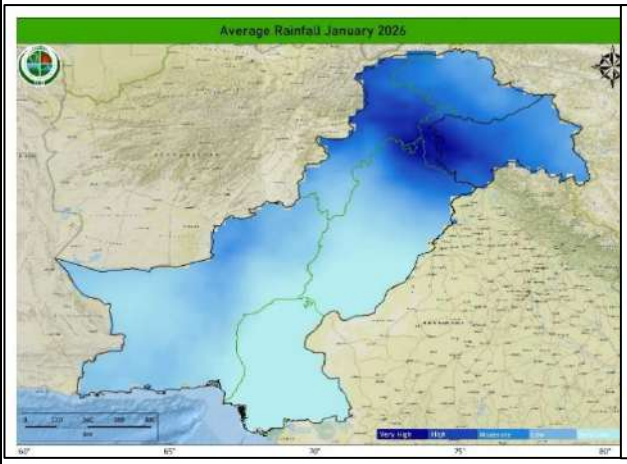
(1) A drier starts to the season, particularly in Northern regions.

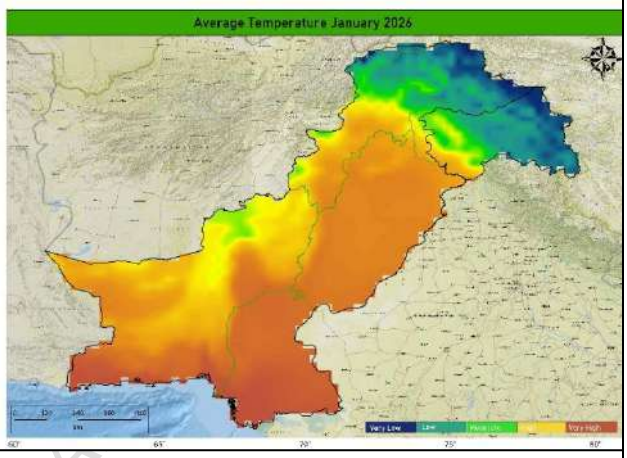
(2) Gradual improvement in rainfall during late January and February.

(3) Above-normal temperatures nationwide. Climate variability driven mainly by Western disturbances, rather than large-scale Oceanic forcing.

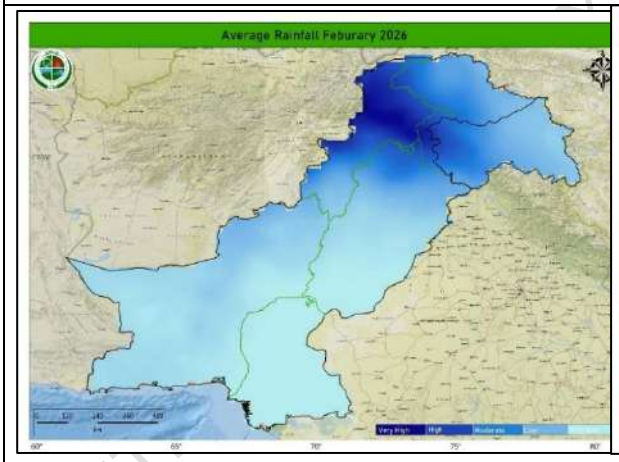
Monthly Maps of DEW-1

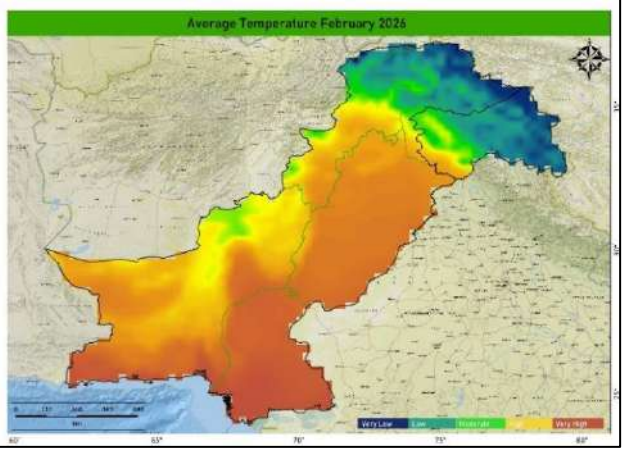
January



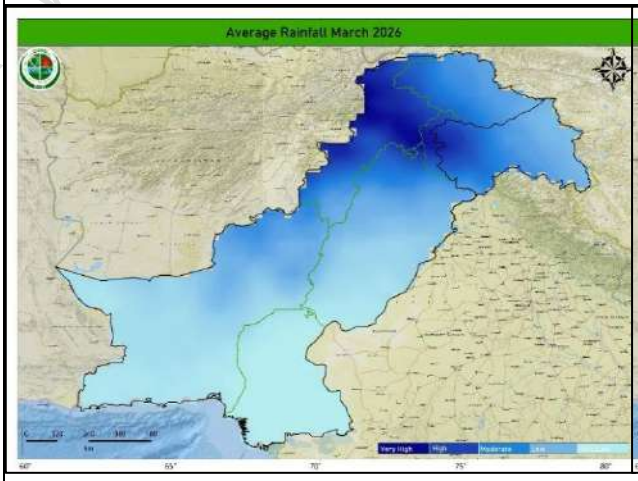


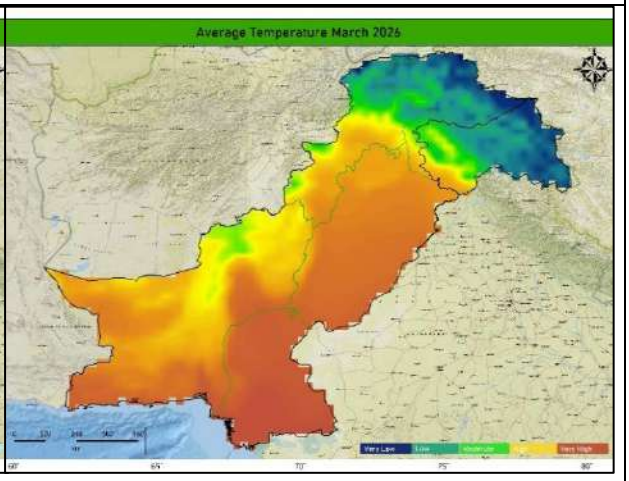
February





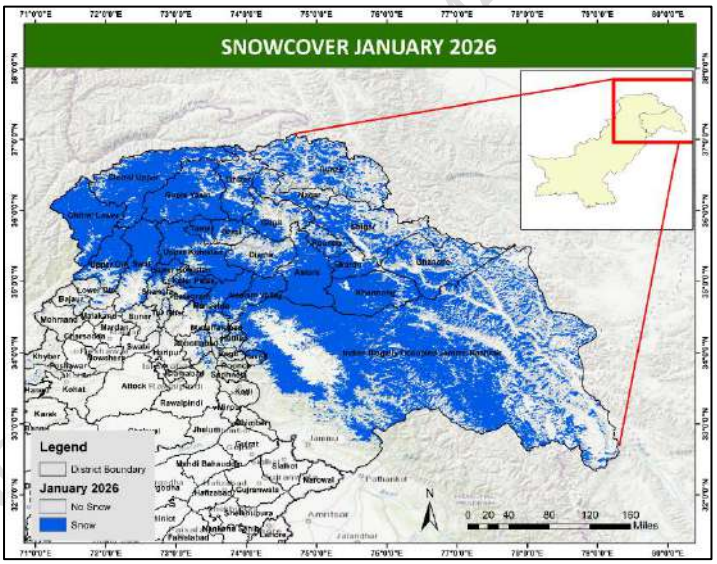
March



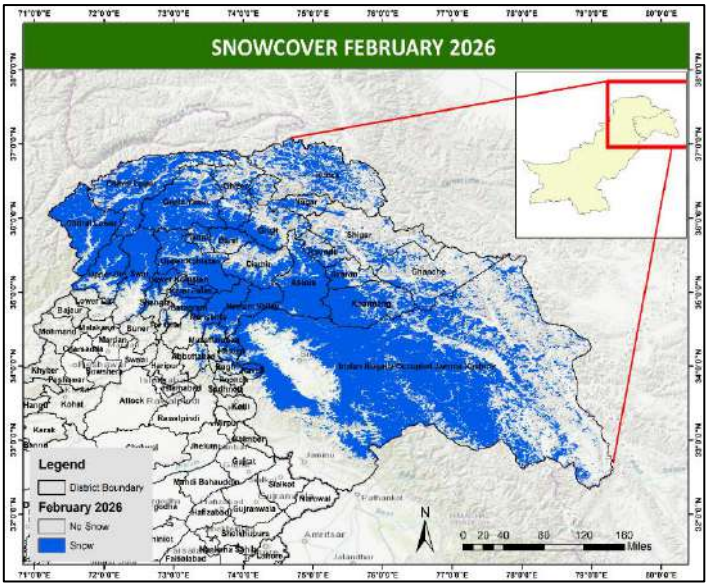


4. **Snow and Avalanches**. From January to March 2026, Northern Pakistan is expected to experience a progressive evolution of snow cover and associated avalanche risk, driven by winter Western Disturbances and seasonal temperature changes.

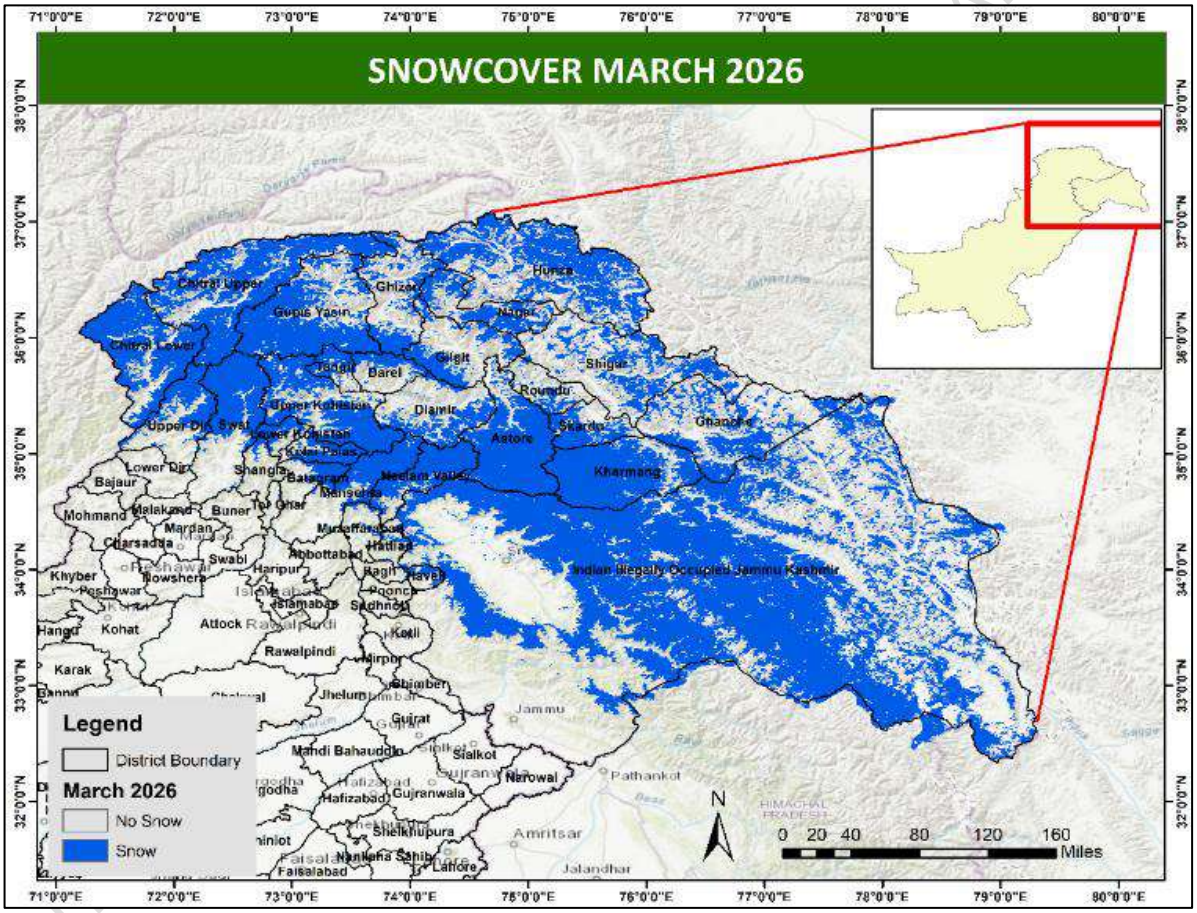
a. **January 2026**. In January 2026, extensive and continuous snow cover is projected across the upper and Western parts of Gilgit-Baltistan, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, AJK, and the Western Himalaya, reflecting peak winter accumulation. Maps indicate dense and widespread snowpack across high-altitude districts such as Hunza, Nagar, Ghizer, Skardu, Astore, Chitral, Upper Kohistan, and Neelum Valley, extending into parts of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. Lower elevations of KP and northern Punjab remain largely snow-free, highlighting strong elevation control. This pattern suggests frequent Western Disturbances combined with sustained cold conditions, increasing risks of avalanches, road blockages, and prolonged isolation of high-mountain communities during mid-winter.



b. **February 2026**. By February 2026, snow cover remains substantial but shows early signs of spatial fragmentation, particularly at mid-elevations. High-altitude zones of central and eastern Gilgit-Baltistan, upper AJK, and the Karakoram Himalayan belt continue to retain deep snowpack, while Western and lower-elevation valleys show partial snow loss, likely driven by intermittent warming and rain-on-snow events. Maps suggest continued snow replenishment during active Western Disturbance episodes, especially when enhanced by moisture surges, but with increasing variability. This transition phase heightens risk of avalanches, landslides, and localized flooding, as accumulated snow becomes more sensitive to temperature fluctuations.



c. **March 2026**. In March 2026, a clear reduction and retreat of snow cover is evident across much of the region, with snow becoming increasingly confined to higher elevations of Gilgit-Baltistan, Eastern AJK, and upper Karakoram ranges. Mid-altitude districts display significant snow depletion, indicating the onset of seasonal melt under rising temperatures and reduced frequency of Western Disturbances. However, persistent snow cover over the highest terrain suggests continued contribution to spring and early summer meltwater. This evolving pattern points to greater variability in river inflows, increased risk of early snowmelt-driven runoff, and localized flooding in downstream catchments if late-season precipitation coincides with warming conditions.



d. **Avalanche Vulnerability 2026**. During January and February, temperatures in Northern mountainous regions of Pakistan remain relatively low, which helps maintain the stability of the snowpack. The cold conditions prevent rapid melting and keep the snow layers compact, reducing the immediate risk of avalanches. However, as temperatures begin to rise in late winter and early spring, the snowpack becomes increasingly unstable. The melting of lower layers, combined with weak bonding between snow layers, creates conditions that can easily trigger avalanches. This seasonal shift in temperature plays a critical role in avalanche formation, making periods of warming particularly hazardous for communities, infrastructure, and travellers in the high-altitude areas of Northern Pakistan. Areas of Northern Pakistan vulnerable to avalanche are shown in the map.

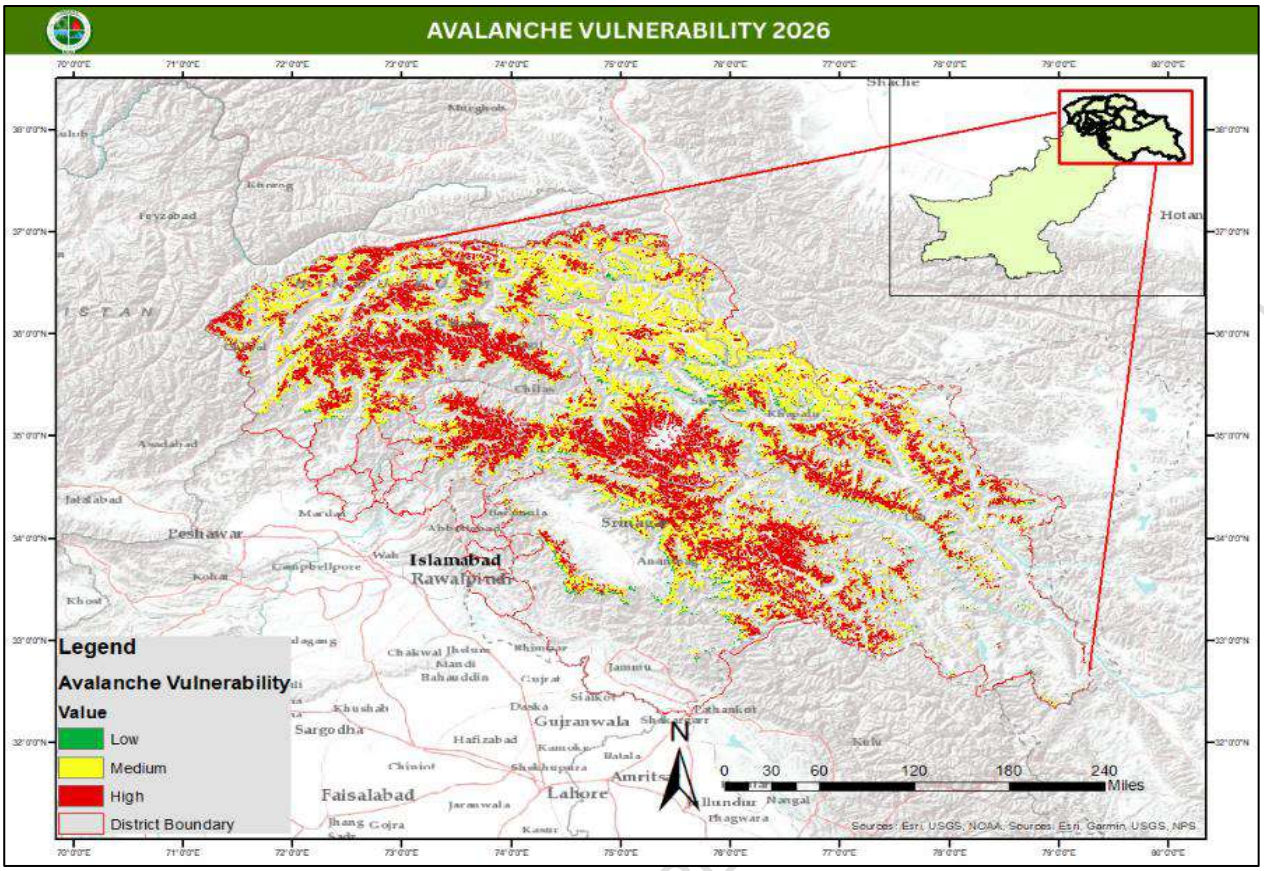
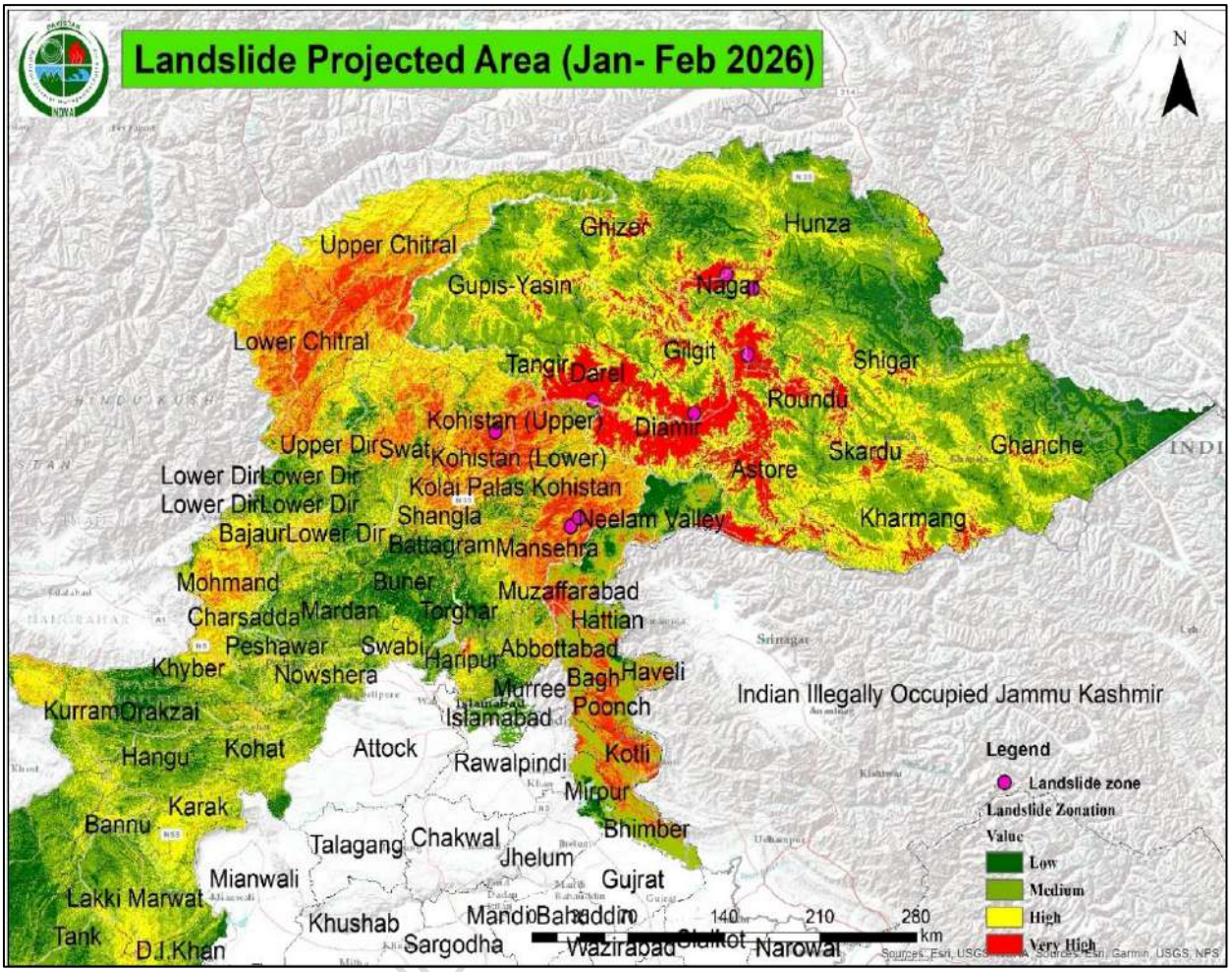


***Figure**: Avalanche Vulnerability in Northern Pakistan*

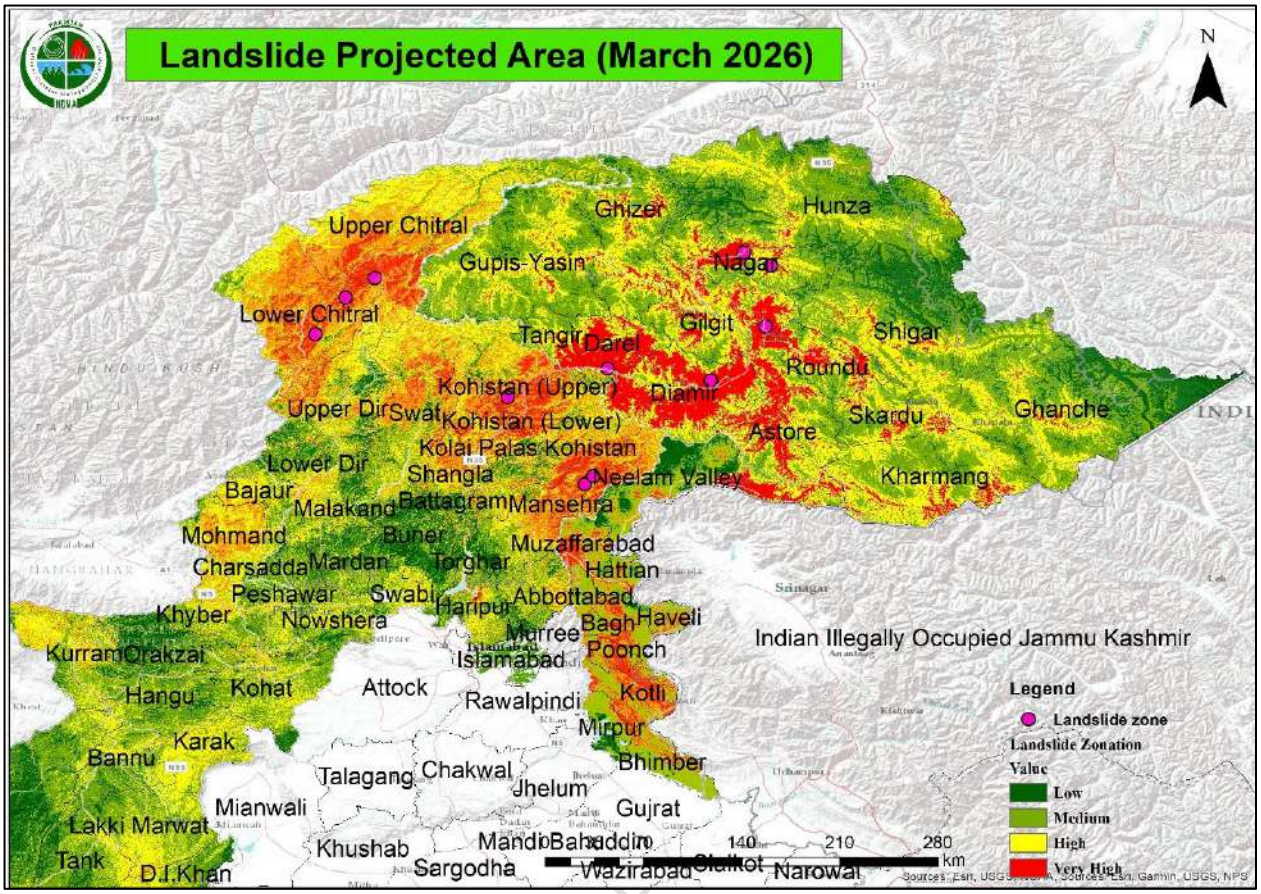
5. **Landslides**. Northern Pakistan, encompassing mountainous regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, is highly susceptible to landslides due to its rugged topography, steep slopes, fragile geology, and active tectonic setting along the Himalaya–Karakoram–Hindukush ranges. Seasonal monsoon rains, snowmelt, and glacial processes contribute to soil saturation and slope instability, while frequent seismic activity further aggravates vulnerability. Expanding infrastructure, such as roads, hydropower projects, and settlements along river valleys, also increases human exposure to landslide hazards. As a result, this region remains one of most landslide-prone areas in South Asia, where even moderate rainfall or seismic triggers can cause significant slope failures, blocking highways, damaging property, and threatening lives.

a. **January-February 2026**. During January and February, slopes in Northern Pakistan are largely stabilized by cold winter conditions. January will experience near-normal precipitation, keeping soil and rock mostly dry and frozen, which limits slope failures. February has slightly higher precipitation, particularly in Northern mountainous areas, which can locally increase soil moisture and reduce stability in vulnerable slopes. Widespread or large landslides remain unlikely because snow cover and frozen ground prevent significant water infiltration, but small, localized landslides may still occur in steep, weak terrain, particularly in ***Upper Kohistan, Mansehra and Nagar***. However, key mechanisms include freeze-thaw cycles, where water in cracks freezes and expands, gradually weakening rock and soil; limited snowmelt or rainfall infiltration, which can

trigger slides on fragile slopes; and topographic or human modifications, such as steep slopes, loose debris, and road cuts, which create points of localized instability.



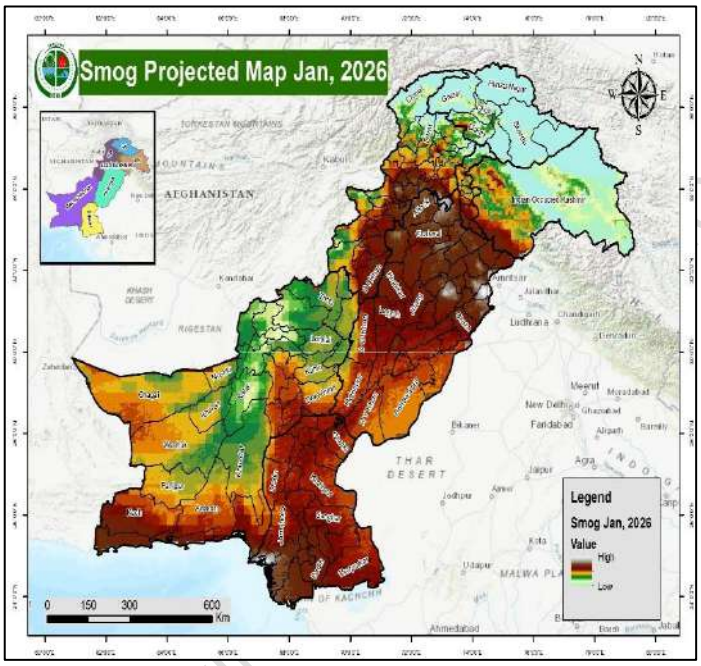
b. **<u>March 2026</u>**. In March, Northern Pakistan experiences a notable increase in precipitation, particularly in high-elevation districts such as ***Gilgit-Baltistan, Upper Kohistan, Diamir, and Chitral***. This rise in moisture, combined with ongoing snowmelt during late winter, increases soil saturation on steep and structurally weak slopes, creating favourable conditions for landslides. March's precipitation enhances infiltration and reduces slope stability, particularly along roads and areas with loose debris. Consequently, localized and potentially larger landslides are more likely in vulnerable terrain. The primary triggers include a combination of snowmelt-induced moisture, rainfall infiltration, and ongoing freeze-thaw weakening of rocks and soils. Therefore, March represents a transitional period where winter slope stabilization decreases, and precipitation-driven landslide risks begin to emerge prominently in Northern Pakistan.

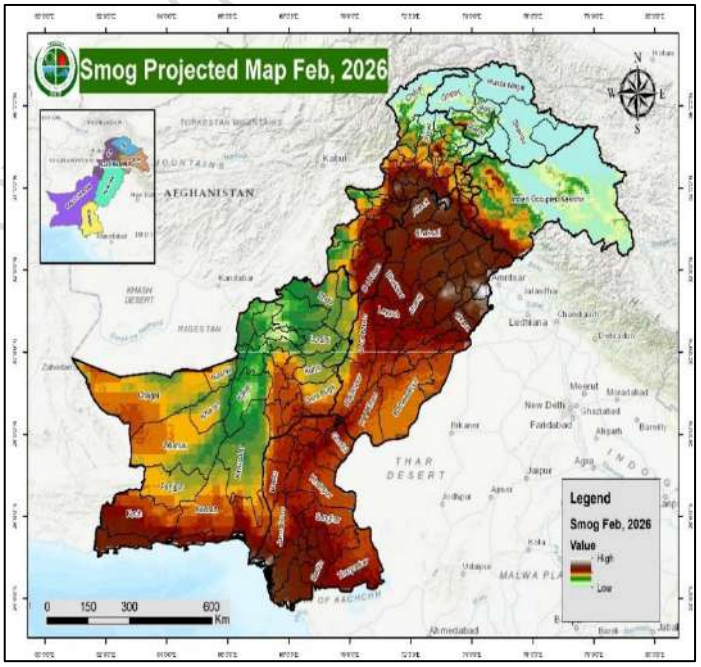


c. **Overall Assessment**. During January and February, landslide risk in Northern Pakistan remains generally low, as cold temperatures, frozen ground, and snow cover limit water infiltration and slope movement. However, localized instability may occur on steep and geologically weak slopes due to freeze-thaw processes and occasional winter precipitation, particularly in Upper Kohistan, Mansehra, Nagar, and similar high-risk corridors. In March, rising precipitation combined with early snowmelt increases soil moisture and reduces slope stability, marking a transition toward higher landslide susceptibility. Consequently, localized to moderate landslides become more likely in Northern mountainous areas, especially in Gilgit-Baltistan, Chitral, Diamir, and Upper Kohistan, warranting increased monitoring and preparedness.

6. **Smog/ Fog Outlook (January-February)**. Smog/ fog outlook for January and February indicates a moderate to high risk of combined air quality and visibility hazards, particularly during January, driven by below-normal rainfall in early winter, weak large-scale circulation, and strong temperature inversions. With ENSO and IOD remaining largely neutral, the seasonal variability will be governed primarily by the frequency and intensity of Western weather systems, which are expected to increase gradually from late January onward. As a result, January is assessed as the month with the likelihood of moderate to dense smog and fog episodes, while February is expected to show a noticeable improvement in atmospheric dispersion. Punjab remains the vulnerable province, particularly its central and northern districts, including Lahore, Sheikhupura, Kasur,

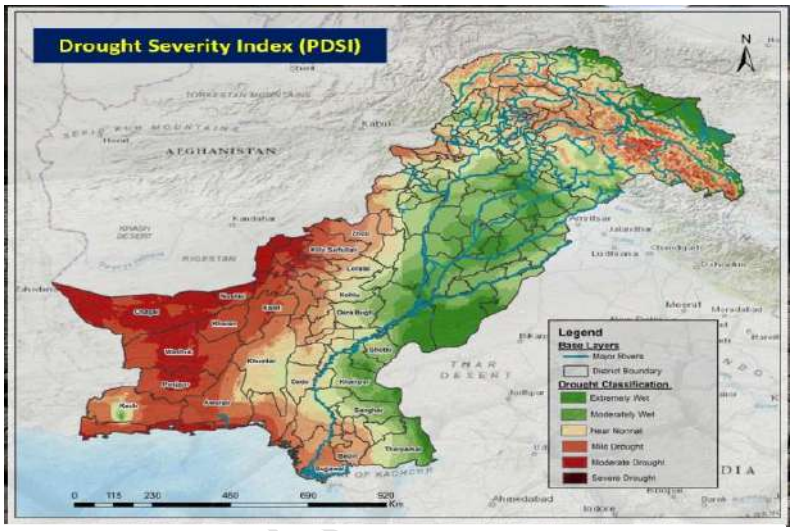
Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Sialkot, and adjoining areas. During January, the region is likely to experience persistent dense fog during nighttime and early morning hours, followed by pronounced daytime smog, primarily due to strong and sustained temperature inversions coupled with weak atmospheric ventilation. Consequently, air quality is expected to deteriorate to very unhealthy range, accompanied by significant visibility reduction, especially along major transport corridors and urban centres. In Southern Punjab, fog is expected to be moderate-dense in intensity and largely confined to nocturnal and early-morning hours, while smog episodes are anticipated to remain localized and comparatively less intense than Northern Punjab. During February, smog and fog conditions across Punjab are projected to become more intermittent, with progressive improvement in dispersion following the passage of western disturbances. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, moderate fog is expected particularly across the Peshawar Valley, including Peshawar, Nowshera, Mardan, and Charsadda. January is likely to witness moderate fog during night and morning hours. Southern KP districts are expected to experience only occasional shallow-moderate fog. During February, fog occurrences are projected to become shorter-lived and more localized as atmospheric conditions improve.





7. **Meteorological Drought**. It refers specifically to below-average precipitation levels co*mpared with long-term climatological norms.* The projections are based on climate models, historical rainfall patterns, groundwater and temperature data, as well as the Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI). These insights aim to support policymakers, provincial and district disaster management authorities along with local communities in preparing for possible rainfall shortages and their impacts on water availability and livelihoods during the period January-March 2026.

a. **Outlook (January to March 2026)**. As per Meteorological projection of Tech EW, in the coming months (i.e., January – March 2026), Pakistan will experience near normal precipitation and above normal temperature in the South west parts of Balochistan and South eastern part of Sindh. Met projections coupled with the reservoir level due to above normal rainfall in monsoon 2025 indicate less likelihood of drought. However, the South-Western part of Balochistan and some parts of Sindh, which are already classified as arid climate zones, will experience mild meteorological drought conditions. In addition, the Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) indicates mild drought in some Northern regions of Pakistan, although this is primarily linked to snow cover rather than rainfall deficit.



Projections (Jan-Mar 2026)

b. **Regional Drought Assessment**

(1) **Balochistan**. Province remains the most affected province in the forecast. Several districts are projected to experience meteorological drought of mild intensity. The persistence of meteorological drought in these districts is linked to their reliance on groundwater, sparse rainfall, and the limited capacity of local infrastructure to store excess water from wet years.

(2) **Mild Drought**. Districts include Mastung, Chagai, Washuk, Nushki, Panjgur, and Parts of Gwadar.

(3) **Sindh**. Sindh remains in near-normal conditions, the districts in the ***Southern and Eastern parts*** like Thatta, Badin, Tharparkar are expected to show ***mild meteorological drought tendencies***. These localized impacts highlight the importance of continuous monitoring of rainfall and irrigation flows in the province.

c. **Overall Assessment**. NEOC drought outlook for January-March 2026 indicates *that* ***Pakistan will likely avoid a nationwide meteorological drought crisis*** due to near-normal rains in the country and also hydrological drought because of the current reservoir levels. However, ***localized mild meteorological drought*** conditions in parts of ***Balochistan and Sindh*** demand focused attention. Proactive planning, combined with community-level awareness and preparedness, will be crucial in mitigating the impacts on agriculture, livelihoods, and water resources. The findings underscore the need for ***short-term and long-term drought resilience strategies***, including investment in water storage infrastructure, groundwater management, and climate-smart agriculture practices, to reduce vulnerability in the most drought-prone regions.

FORECASTED SEASONAL OUTLOOK

Tel: +92-51-9250754
Fax: +92-51-9250368

No. R&D-6(29)/ 2024/

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Defence (Defence Division)
Pakistan Meteorological Department
Research and Development Division
Sector H-8/2, Islamabad - 44000
Website: www.pmd.gov.pk

December 19, 2025

Mr. Ali Imran Sayed
Director Response
NDMA, HQ Office
Main Murree Road Near ITP Office
Islamabad.

SUBJECT: **PAKISTAN WEATHER ANOMALIES OUTLOOK**

Reference to your letter **No. F.2 (E)/2025-NDMA (MW/Weather Outlook)** dated 15th December, 2025 on the subject cited above, please find the outlook for the season January – February – March (JFM) 2026, based on the November 2025 atmospheric conditions.

2. Rainfall outlook

The JFM 2026 outlook indicates normal to slightly above-normal precipitation over most parts of the country, with the highest positive anomalies projected for the northwestern regions, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, western Punjab, and parts of upper Balochistan. In contrast, Kashmir and eastern Gilgit-Baltistan are expected to experience near-normal to slightly below-normal precipitation during the season (Figure 1).

At the monthly scale, January 2026 is likely to observe near-normal precipitation across the country, reflecting a relatively balanced spatial distribution (Figure 2). February 2026 is projected to exhibit a mixed precipitation pattern, with slightly above-normal precipitation over the western and central regions, while northeastern areas may experience slightly below-normal conditions; western Balochistan is expected to remain close to normal (Figure 3). In March 2026, precipitation is projected to be slightly above normal over northwestern Pakistan, slightly below normal over northeastern regions, and near-normal across central and southern parts of the country (Figure 4).

3. Temperature Outlook

Mean temperatures during the JFM 2026 season are expected to remain above normal across most parts of the country, with the largest positive departures over northern regions, including Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir, and upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Figure 5).

In January 2026, above-normal mean temperatures are likely nationwide, with the strongest anomalies over Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir, and upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Figure 6). February 2026 is also expected to remain warmer than average, with relatively moderate temperatures across the central and southern regions compared to January (Figure 7). By March 2026, above-normal temperatures are again projected across the country, with enhanced warming over northern areas, indicating a potential early onset of spring-like conditions (Figure 8).

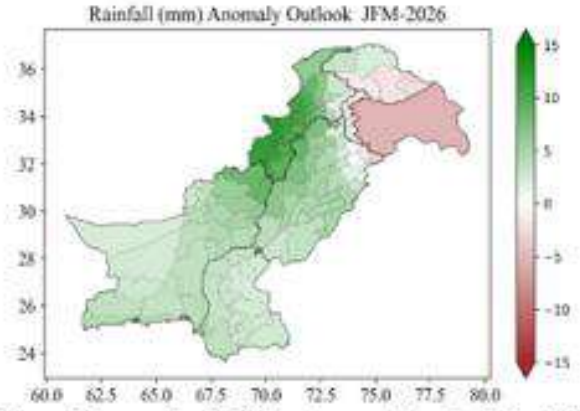


Figure 1 Seasonal rainfall (mm) anomaly outlook for JFM 2026

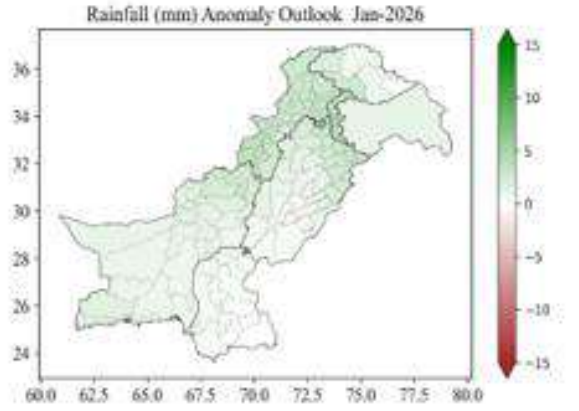


Figure 2 Monthly rainfall (mm) anomaly outlook for Jan 2026

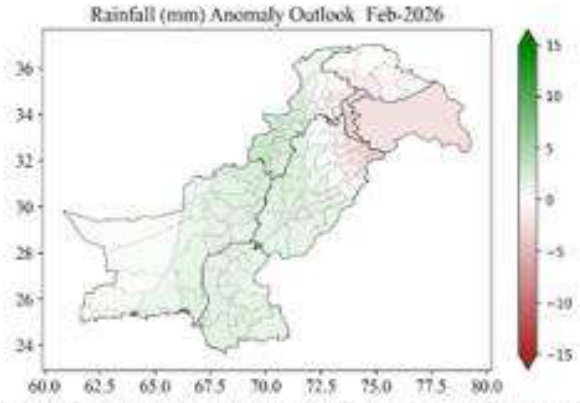


Figure 3 Monthly rainfall (mm) anomaly outlook for Feb 2026

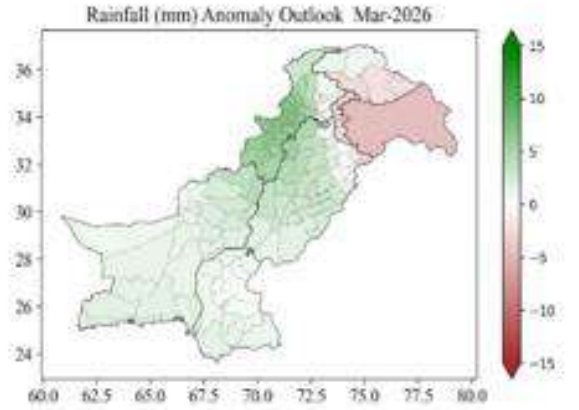


Figure 4 Monthly rainfall (mm) anomaly outlook for Mar 2026

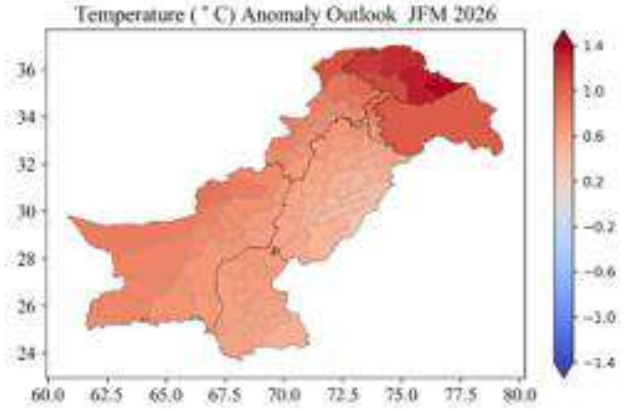


Figure 5 Seasonal temperature anomaly outlook for JFM 2026

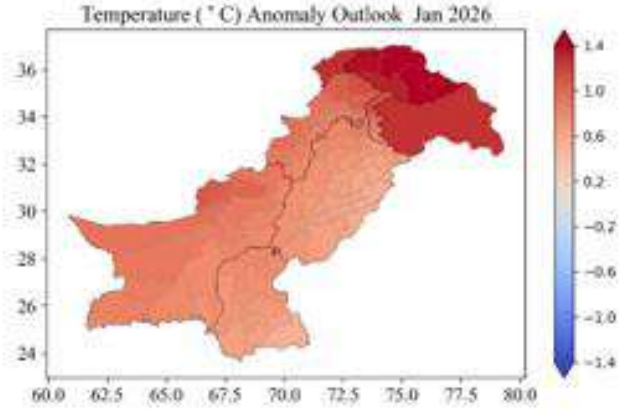


Figure 6 Monthly temperature anomaly outlook for Jan 2026

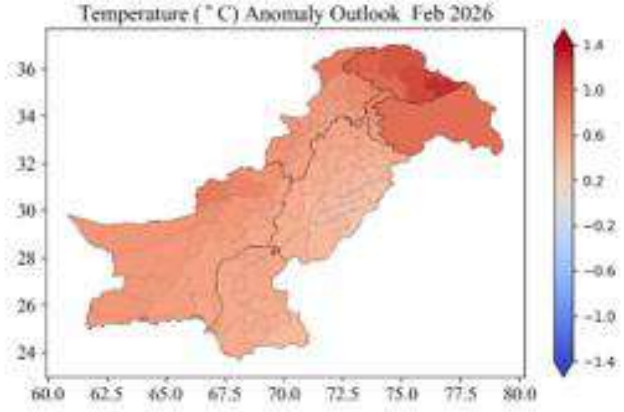


Figure 7 Monthly temperature) anomaly outlook for Feb 2026

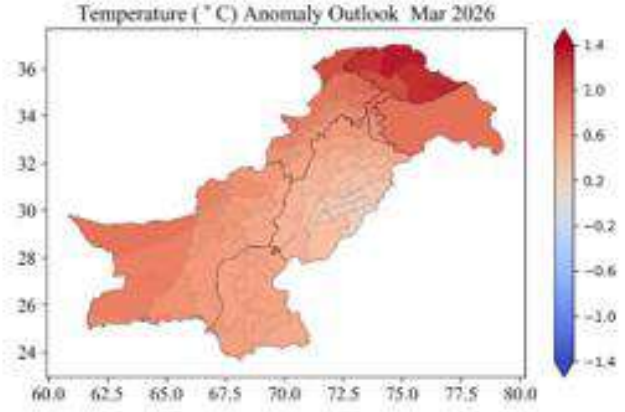


Figure 8 Monthly temperature anomaly outlook for Mar 2026

4. These outputs are derived from global climate models, which do not fully capture anthropogenic forcing at local and regional scales, particularly temperature inversions associated with degraded air quality. Such conditions may lead to the suppression of precipitation, especially during December and January over the plains.

5. Overall, the outlook suggests no pronounced extreme precipitation anomalies during the JFM 2026 season. However, episodic winter weather systems may still result in localized impacts, particularly over northern and western regions. Furthermore, generally above-normal temperatures, especially across northern areas, may influence snow cover, snowmelt processes, and the timing of spring conditions. The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) will continue to closely monitor evolving atmospheric conditions and issue regular updates and impact-based advisories as necessary.

6. This issues with the approval of the Director General Met Services.

(Dr. Furrukh Bashir)
Director
R&D Division, PMD
Islamabad

PART III - NATIONAL RESPONSE

NATIONAL RESPONSE GUIDELINES FOR WINTERS (JANUARY TO MARCH 2026)

SNOWFALL/ RAINFALL SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR RURAL/ MOUNTAINOUS AREAS

1. Heavy snowfall/ rainfall in these areas can lead to road blockages, avalanches, and structural damages, especially to weak and unreinforced buildings. It is crucial for residents to take preventive measures to safeguard lives and properties. Keeping in view these conditions, the following additional guidelines for snowfall areas are enclosed for information and necessary implementation at all levels:

a. **Roof Safety Precautions**

(1) **Reinforce Weak Structures**. If your house has a weak roof, strengthen it before inclement weather by adding wooden or metal support beams.

(2) **Remove Excess Snow**. Regularly clear accumulated snow from the roof using a shovel or broom to prevent excessive weight buildup.

(3) **Avoid Flat Roofs**. Houses with flat roofs are at greater risk of collapse. If possible, construct sloped roofs to allow snow/ water to slide off.

(4) **Use Waterproof Sheets**. Covering roofs with waterproof plastic sheets can reduce snow/ water accumulation and moisture absorption.

(5) **Check for Warning Signs**. Watch for cracks in walls, sagging roofs, or creaking sounds, which indicate structural weakness.

b. **Personal Safety Measures**

(1) **Stay Indoors during Heavy Snowfall/ rainfall**. Avoid going outside unless necessary to prevent exposure to extreme cold and snow-related accidents.

(2) **Keep Emergency Exits Clear**. Regularly remove snow - *accumulated over time* - from doorways and windows to maintain entry/ exit routes.

(3) **Stock Essential Supplies**. Store food, drinking water, warm clothing, medicine, and firewood in case of prolonged snowfall/ rainfall.

c. **Heating and Fire Safety**

(1) **Use Safe Heating Methods**. Avoid open flames inside the house and use properly ventilated heaters or stoves.

(2) **Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning**. Ensure proper ventilation when using wood or coal-burning stoves to avoid toxic gas buildup.

d. **Community-Based Actions**

(1) **Help Neighbours**. Assist elderly and disabled community members in clearing snow/ accumulated rain water and ensuring their safety.

(2) **Strengthen Local Shelters**. If community centers or schools are used as shelters, ensure they are structurally sound and stocked with emergency supplies.

(3) **Stay Informed**. Follow weather forecasts and advisories from local authorities and disaster management agencies.

WINTER SMOG GUIDELINES FOR PAKISTAN

1. With the onset of winter, Pakistan faces an increasing challenge of severe smog, particularly in urban and industrial regions. This seasonal phenomenon results from a combination of factors, including temperature inversions, industrial emissions, vehicular pollution, and agricultural burning. The smog not only disrupts daily life but also poses significant health risks, with respiratory issues, reduced visibility, and environmental impact on the rise. In response to these pressing concerns, comprehensive Winter Smog Guidelines aimed at mitigating the effects of winter smog across the country are shared for vide dissemination/ compliance: -

a. **Public**

(1) Avoid outdoor activities particularly strenuous exercise during periods of high smog such as early morning and late evening when pollution levels are usually highest.

(2) Spend more time indoors especially for individuals with respiratory conditions asthma or cardiovascular diseases.

(3) Use high quality masks such as N95 or KN95 when going outdoors in accordance with advisories issued by the local administration as these masks help filter fine particulate matter including PM2.5. Refrain from using cloth masks

(4) Keep windows and doors closed during high-smog days to prevent outdoor pollutants from entering. Use air purifiers to reduce indoor air pollution.

(5) Check daily air quality index (AQI) updates through NDMA Mobile App to stay informed of pollution levels.

(6) Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated, as it can help flush out toxins from the body.

(7) Eat antioxidant-rich foods like fruits and vegetables to strengthen your immune system and protect against the harmful effects of air pollution

(8) Refrain from smoking as it adds to respiratory strain and worsens the effects of smog exposure.

(9) Minimize the use of private vehicles to reduce the overall pollution levels. Carpool or use public transportation whenever possible.

(10) Avoid unnecessary trips to reduce your exposure to outdoor air and help decrease traffic emissions.

(11) Individuals with respiratory conditions, children and the elderly should have regular checkups to monitor their health during smog season.

(12) Consult a doctor if you experience symptoms like difficulty breathing, coughing or eye irritation.

(13) Use exhaust fans and ventilators to help circulate indoor air, but avoid directly venting outdoor air during peak smog hours.

(14) Consider natural air-purifying indoor plants (e.g., snake plants or spider plants) to improve indoor air quality.

(15) Stay updated with NDMA/ PMD/ local government warnings, advisories and precautionary guidelines to protect yourself and your family.

(16) Ensure you are updated on the condition and accessibility of major highways and arterial routes before undertaking travel

b. **Media**

(1) Broadcast health advisories on the dangers of smog, especially for vulnerable groups like children, elderly and those with respiratory issues.

(2) Share information on precautionary measures, such as staying indoors during peak smog hours, wearing masks as per local administration advisories and avoiding strenuous outdoor activities.

(3) Educate public on the causes of smog, including vehicle emissions, industrial pollution and agricultural stubble burning.

(4) Collaborate with NEOC, PMD, PEOCs, Environmental Protection Agencies and other concerned departments to give accurate and timely weather forecasts related to smog and pollution levels.

(5) Utilize social media to quickly share urgent smog alerts, AQI levels and precautionary information, reaching a broad and diverse audience.

c. **District/ Provincial Governments and PDMAs**

(1) Enforce laws to control pollution sources including vehicular emissions industrial discharges and the burning of waste.

(2) Actively monitor and penalize crop residue burning which is a major contributor to winter smog particularly in agricultural regions such as Southern Punjab.

(3) District Authorities and DDMAs shall regularly report local Air Quality Index levels to provincial authorities and coordinate in the formulation of region-specific policies.

(4) Conduct awareness workshops at community centers and schools and disseminate smog precautionary measures through radio broadcasts and mosque announcements while also utilizing social media platforms for timely public updates.

(5) Promote carpooling within government departments and educational institutions to reduce overall vehicle usage.

(6) Enforce protective measures during periods of severe smog such as restricting industrial activities regulating traffic movement and temporarily closing schools to safeguard children's health.

(7) Work with the local police and environment officers to identify and curb illegal activities that contribute to air pollution.

(8) Coordinate with local health departments to ensure adequate medical facilities for respiratory issues, especially in smog-prone areas.

(9) Develop and regularly update smog-specific disaster management plans, including pre-emptive measures and emergency response actions during severe smog episodes.

(10) Engage community leaders and local NGOs to promote smog-related safety measures, ensuring the message reaches remote and rural areas.

d. **National Highway and Motorway Police**

(1) Regularly issue safety advisories and warnings through electronic signboards, SMS alerts and social media to inform the public about areas with high smog concentration and reduced visibility.

(2) Educate drivers on the proper use of fog lights, speed reduction and other necessary precautionary measures while driving in smog conditions.

(3) Enforce strict speed limits on highways and motorways during smog episodes to ensure the safety of all road users.

(4) Coordinate with NEOC, PMD and PEOCs to obtain updated information on smog forecasts and prevailing visibility conditions.

(5) Conduct public awareness campaigns on the health impacts of smog and recommended preventive measures with a focus on motorists commercial drivers and pedestrians.

(6) Ensure the motorway helpline 130 remains fully operational on a 24/7 basis to enable a swift and effective response during emergencies.

THUNDERSTORM & LIGHTNING

THUNDERSTORMS & LIGHTNING
Be Prepared

A **natural electrical discharge** during thunderstorms, igniting wildfires in **dry vegetation** or forests.

Lightning Facts

Lightning is a leading cause of **injury** and **death** from **weather-related hazards**

Direct lightning strikes on **humans** are relatively **rare** but can be **fatal**

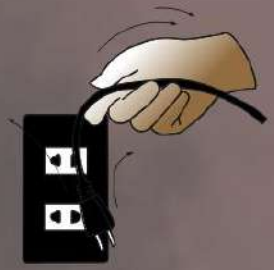
Lightning can **ignite wildfires** by **striking** the **ground** or **flammable objects**

IF YOU ARE UNDER A THUNDERSTORM WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

When thunder roars, **go indoors**

Pay attention to **alerts and warnings**

Move from **outdoors** into a **building or car**



Unplug appliances

Do not use **landline phones**

Stay away from **tall trees and metal objects**

THUNDERSTORMS & LIGHTNING
Be Prepared

Prepare

Cut down or **trim trees** that may be in **danger** of **falling** on **your home.**

Consider buying **surge protectors**

Secure outside furniture.

Secure Doors and Windows

During

If indoors, **avoid running water** or using **landline phones.** Electricity **can travel through plumbing** and **phone lines.**

If **boating or swimming**, get to land and **find a sturdy, grounded shelter** or **vehicle** immediately.

Avoid flooded roadways.

If necessary, take **shelter in a car with a metal top and sides. Do not touch** anything **metal.**

After

Pay attention to authorities and **weather forecasts** to know whether it is **safe to go outside** and to **get information** regarding **potential flash flooding.**

f the time between seeing the lightning and hearing the thunder is less than 30 seconds, it indicates that the storm is within about 6 miles (10 kilometers) and could be dangerous.

THUNDERSTORMS & LIGHTNING
Be Prepared
Individual Guidelines

Install a **Lightning Conductor**

Stay Inside for 30 Minutes After the Last Thunderclap

Do not use an Umbrella

If a Power Line Falls, **don't lift your feet; shuffle along the ground, maintaining contact.**

If you are in a group during a thunderstorm, separate from each other. This will reduce the number of injuries if lightning strikes the ground.

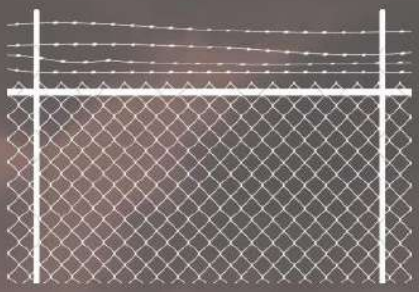
Lightning can be deadly, but a person **apparently killed by lightning can often be revived by prompt mouth to mouth resuscitation, heart massage, or artificial respiration.**

If your hair stands on end, lightning is about to strike you. Drop to your knees and bend forward but don't lie flat on the ground. Wet ground is a good conductor of electricity.

THUNDERSTORMS & LIGHTNING

Be Prepared

Livestock Guidelines



Ground wire fence

Current can travel up to two miles through a wire fence, which could be harmful to both livestock and humans.

Remove Single Trees

Remove single trees in pastures to prevent animals from congregating under them

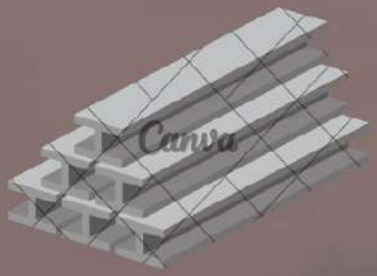
Install a lightning conductor for animal shelter

Ensure good drainage and elevation.

Remove dead trees or objects from fields or livestock areas that may serve as potential flying debris.

If possible, bring animal into a barn or shelter well in advance of a storm and secure the place.

Gather and dispose of trash, limbs, wire, and damaged equipment that could harm livestock.



Do not use metal objects to build the barn

Avoid clustering livestock together to minimize the risk of multiple animals getting affected by lightning

THUNDERSTORMS & LIGHTNING

Be Prepared

Livestock Guidelines

Ground wire fence

Current can travel up to two miles through a wire fence, which could be harmful to both livestock and humans.

Remove Single Trees

Remove single trees in pastures to prevent animals from congregating under them

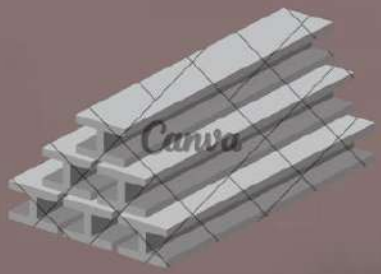
Install a lightning conductor for animal shelter

Ensure good drainage and elevation.

Remove dead trees or objects from fields or livestock areas that may serve as potential flying debris.

If possible, bring animal into a barn or shelter well in advance of a storm and secure the place.

Gather and dispose of trash, limbs, wire, and damaged equipment that could harm livestock.



Do not use metal objects to build the barn

Avoid clustering livestock together to minimize the risk of multiple animals getting affected by lightning

KEY GUIDELINES FOR WINTER TRAVEL SAFETY

Key Guidelines for Winter Travel Safety

Check Weather Forecast

Regularly check NDMA's website & mobile app for updated weather information.

Check Alerts/Advisories

Check websites of respective PDMA / GBDMA / SDMA for area specific alerts / advisories.

Check NH&MPH Website

Before departing, check with National Highways & Motorway Police (NH&MP) on their website for road conditions of intended route.

Take Travel Essentials

Carry basic travel necessities i.e., drinking water, medicine and enough snacks / food which can suffice for basic needs of all accompanying travelers for a period of at least 48 hours.

Ensure Availability of Anti-Skid Chains

Check requirement of anti-skid/ tire chains and coordinate its availability in case of need.

Vehicle Maintenance Before Travel

Ensure proper checking and maintenance of vehicle from a mechanic before commencement of journey. Also carry a spare tire, radiator fluids and lubricants, as advised by the mechanic.

Carry Warm Clothes

Carry enough quantity of warm clothing for all passengers to keep warm during extreme weather conditions and provide an option of changing into dry clothes, if required.

Confirm Accommodation Before Travel

Ensure availability of accommodation and seek prior confirmation from hotel / guestroom for reservations before departing on trip, including:-

(a)Prevailing situation in the area
(b)Road condition and diversions
(c)Traffic flow pattern and busy hours to avoid traffic jams.
(d)Availability of medical and health facilities

Ensure Fresh Air Circulation

Keep passage for fresh air circulation through air conditioning mechanism or keeping a window slightly open.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

Key Guidelines for Local Administration / Hotel Management

Strengthen Local Monitoring Systems

Energize existing local administration / DDMA and line department-based monitoring and reporting mechanism.

Community-Based Hazard Monitoring

Engage local communities at hazard prone sites to enable round the clock monitoring and feedback mechanism for early warnings and alerts.

Awareness Campaigns on Region level

Prepare general and region specific awareness campaigns and ensure wide spread propagation of likely threats / hazards.

Pre-Position Machinery

In coordination with NHA / FWO, local C&W and line departments to devise and pre-place appropriate machinery at vulnerable / choke points.

Deploy Medical Resources

Medical resources, paramedics, equipment and medicine be deployed as per the vulnerability / risks identified in different regions.

Traffic Management Plans

Devise city-based snow clearance and traffic management plans especially in snow prone areas likely to face greater influx of tourists.

Travel Advisory on Road Conditions

LEAs along with traffic police to advise travelers regarding likely situations of road closure/slippery conditions and use of precautionary measures.

Establish Emergency Operations Center

Establish Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) at district and provincial levels for continuous monitoring of the situation. Ensure coordination of response efforts among relevant agencies through these centers.

Warn Tourists About Risk Zones

Travelers and tourists be forewarned about likely risks posed at vulnerable locations.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

HOME & CAR WINTERIZED CHECKLIST

Home Winterized Checklist

FOOD SUPPLIES

- Stock up on non-perishable food items that require minimal cooking, such as canned goods, rice, and lentils.
- Ensure you have an ample supply of diapers, formula, and other necessities for infants and young children.

EMERGENCY COOKING

Have an alternative means for cooking in case of power outages, such as a portable stove, etc.

FIRST AID KIT

- Assemble a basic first aid kit with essential supplies.
- Bandages, Band-aids, Alcohol Pads, etc.
- Essential Medicines; Paracetamol, Aspirin, Imodium, etc.

INSULATION IMPROVEMENTS

- Use locally available materials for additional insulation, such as heavy curtains or blankets on windows and doors.
- Insulate water pipes to prevent freezing
- Allow faucets to drip during extremely cold nights to prevent pipe freezing.

TRADITIONAL HEATING METHODS

- Explore traditional heating methods like charcoal braziers or clay stoves if modern heating sources are limited.
- Avoid Carbon monoxide poisoning through proper ventilation.

BACKUP POWER

- Ensure you have a backup power source, such as a generator or battery-operated power packs.
- Have extra batteries for flashlights and other devices.

SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT

- Have snow shovels, ice melt, and a snow blower if necessary.
- Keep paths and driveways clear to prevent accidents.

WARM CLOTHING AND BLANKETS

- Ensure you have enough warm clothing, including hats, gloves, scarves, and thermal socks.
- Have extra blankets for warmth.

LEARN BASIC FIRST AID

- Learn Basic First Aid:
- Refresh your knowledge of basic first aid techniques to handle common winter related injuries.

PLAN FOR EVACUATION

Know your local evacuation routes and have a plan in case you need to leave your home.

Car Winterized Checklist

FLUIDS:

- Check and top off engine oil.
- Ensure the radiator has a proper mixture of antifreeze/coolant.
- Check brake fluid, transmission fluid, power steering fluid, and windshield washer fluid levels.

BATTERY:

- Inspect the battery for corrosion and clean the terminals.
- Test the battery to ensure it has enough power to start the car in cold conditions.

TIRES:

- Check tire tread depth and replace tires if necessary.
- Ensure tires are properly inflated, as tire pressure tends to drop in cold weather.
- Consider using winter tires for better traction in snow and ice.

BRAKES:

- Inspect the brakes for wear and tear.
- Check brake fluid level.

LIGHTS:

- Ensure all exterior lights are working (headlights, brake lights, turn signals, and hazard lights).
- Clean lights and lenses from dirt, snow, and ice regularly.

FUEL:

- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid fuel line freezing.

CARRY CHAINS OR TRACTION MATS:

- Depending on your location and the severity of winter conditions, consider carrying tire chains or traction mats for added traction in snow and ice.

CHECK THE DEFROSTING AND HEATING SYSTEMS:

- Ensure your defrosting and heating systems are functioning properly to maintain visibility and keep the interior comfortable.

CHECK YOUR SPARE TIRE:

- Ensure your spare tire is in good condition, and you have all the necessary tools to change a flat tire.

EXHAUST SYSTEM:

- Inspect the exhaust system for leaks.
- Make sure the exhaust system is free of snow and ice buildup.

Avoid ❄ Spot ❄ Treat

Hypothermia & Frostbite

When going outside be sure to wear

- A scarf or knit mask that covers face and mouth
- Hat
- Gloves or mittens
- Water resistant coat
- Wear several layers of of clothing
- Water resistant boots

When going outside in winter make sure body parts most often affected by frostbite are covered in warm, dry clothing.

Know who is Most at Risk

Hikers, Hunters, Homeless

Older adults

People Working Outdoors

Babies sleeping in cold rooms

Avoid ❄ Spot ❄ Treat

Hypothermia & Frostbite

Hypothermia

Signs & Symptoms

Adults

- Shivering
- Exhaustion
- Confusion
- Fumbling hands
- Memory loss
- Slurred speech
- Drowsiness

Infants

- Bright red, cold skin
- Very low energy

Frostbite

Signs & Symptoms

- Redness or pain in any area of skin

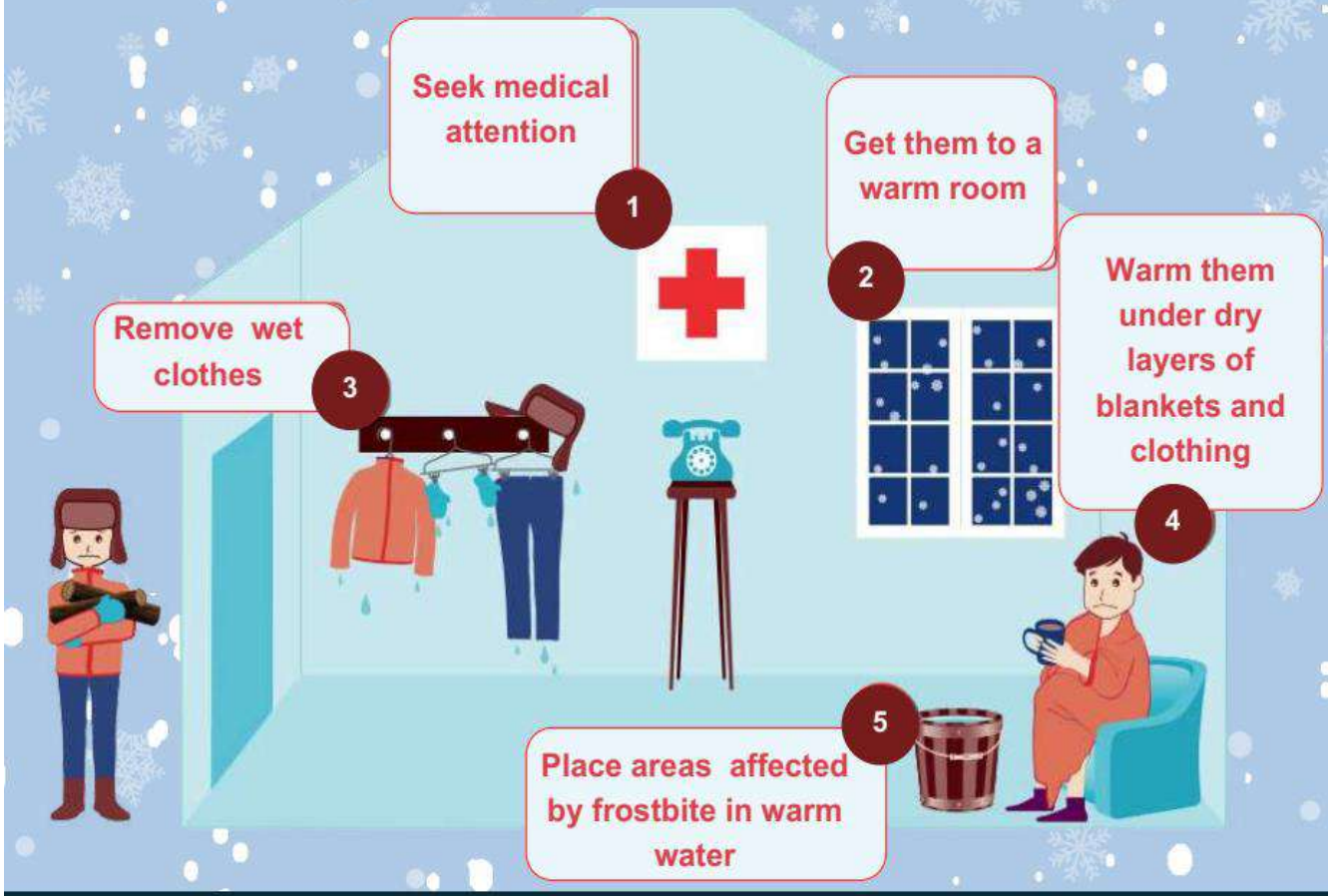
Other Signs

- White / grayish yellow skin area
- Skin that feels
- Unusually firm or waxy skin
- Numbness

If a person's temperature is below 35° get medical attention immediately.

Avoid Spot Treat

Hypothermia



Frostbite

Since skin may be numb, frostbite victims may harm themselves further and use caution when treating frostbite

Avalanches

BE PREPARED FOR AN AVALANCHE

An **avalanche** is a large movement of snow and debris **moving quickly down slope**.

Can be caused by people, fresh snowfall, and wind

Can move at speeds of 90–120 kph

Peak season is December through March

The Northern Areas of Pakistan lie in the **Mountainous Hindukush-Karakorum-Himalayan (HKH)** Ranges which features mostly highly glaciated and avalanche fed terrain.

People Caught in Avalanches may Suffer from

Hypothermia | Frost Bite | Cardiac Arrest | Trauma | Suffocation | Internal injuries

How to Spot an Avalanche Risk

Dramatic change in weather.

Pay attention to even slight snow movement.

snow texture & unstable snow conditions.

Snow on Rocks on big open slopes

Cracks in snow cover.

Rapidly increasing temperatures.

In Case of Emergency Contact

GBDMA	05811 922 030	Rescue 1122 KP	1122
SDMA	05822 921 536	Rescue 1122 GB	
PDMA KP	1700	Rescue 1122 AJ&K	

Essential Safety Guidelines

Prepare Now

Check on **weather forecast**.

Learn how to use **safety and rescue** equipment.

Take **first aid training** for **hypothermia**

Travel with a **guide**

Ask **Local community** for **avalanche prone** areas.

Always travel in **pairs**.

Follow avalanche **warnings** on paths and roads.

Survive Durring

Wear a **helmet and use torch** to help u in case of an emergency.

Use an **avalanche airbag**.

If possible, grab onto a **tree or rock** to anchor yourself.

Swim to stay atop the avalanche **using arm and leg motions.**

Signal for help by yelling or making noise.

Recognize & Respond

Survive an avalanche by **moving diagonally** to the side, not straight down.

Cup hands over mouth to create an air pocket, if buried.

Before initiating search, call **Rescue 1122**, then proceed.

Treat others for **suffocation, hypothermia, injury,** or shock.

Mitigation and Prevention

Construct **avalanche** dams and **fences** in vulnerable areas.

Utilize **explosives**, artillery, **Gazex** for controlled avalanche.

Install avalanche **warning signs** and information boards.

Install automated **snowpack sensors**.

Enforce **zoning regulations** in tourist areas.

Regular **Satellite monitoring** of snow cover in high risk areas.

Public awareness campaigns

Training programs for **professionals.**

Develop **emergency response plans.**

Integrate **avalanche-resistant designs** in high-risk zones.

Establish effective communication channels for timely alerts.

Enforce **permits** for activities in avalanche-prone zones.

For Additional Guidance, Please visit NDMA's Website and Adhere to NDMA's Plan for Winter Contingencies and Tourist Guidelines

Avalanche Resilient Structures

Intervention for Control Avalanche

For Additional Guidance, Please Watch

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9ggA3whv7E
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cII4VD2GxPg

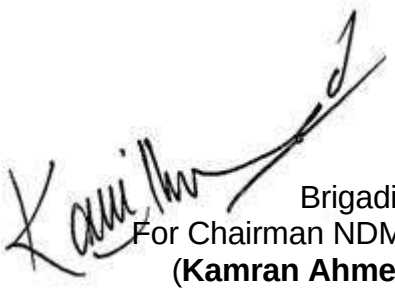
Conclusion

1. In the context of the upcoming Winter Season (January – March 2026), Pakistan finds itself situated in a region where the frequency of extreme weather events has witnessed a concerning uptick in recent years. It is noteworthy that despite contributing less than 1% of global greenhouse emissions, Pakistan ranks as the seventh most vulnerable state to the adverse impacts of climate change. These realities underscore the urgent necessity for an efficient, proactive, and well-coordinated response mechanism, a collaborative effort that brings together all stakeholders.

2. Drawing from past experiences and considering the higher number of extreme climatic events experienced in 2024-25, the imperative to address this challenge is now more pronounced than ever. It is evident that climate-related hazards pose significant risks to both the populace and vital infrastructure in Pakistan.

3. To mitigate these risks and enhance resilience in the face of a rapidly changing climate, the focus must be on preparedness, timely early warning systems, and the development of a well-orchestrated response strategy capable of adapting to evolving situations.

4. As we look ahead to the Winter/ Spring Season (January – March 2026), we must recognize that the challenges presented by climate change are dynamic and multifaceted. Collaborative efforts, knowledge sharing, and a collective resolve to safeguard the lives and property of our citizens will be paramount in navigating the challenges that lie ahead. This necessitates the active participation and commitment of government agencies, local communities, non-governmental organizations, and international partners to work together effectively in a concerted response to climate-related hazards. By doing so, we can collectively strive to build a more resilient and sustainable future for Pakistan.



Government of Pakistan
Prime Minister's Office
National Disaster Management Authority
Islamabad
Dated: **26** December 2025

Brigadier
For Chairman NDMA
(**Kamran Ahmed**)
Tel: 051-9030843
Fax: 051-9030729

Annex A

NDM ACT 2010 CLAUSE-9

Powers and Functions of the National Disaster Management Authority.

The National Authority shall:

(a) Act as the implementing, coordinating and monitoring body for disaster management;

(b) Prepare the National Plan to be approved by the National Commission;

(c) implement, co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the national policy;

(d) lay down guidelines for preparing disaster management plans by different Ministries or departments and the Provincial Authorities;

(e) provide necessary technical assistance to the Provincial Governments and the Provincial Authorities for preparing their disaster management plans in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the National Commission;

(f) co-ordinate response in the event of any threatening disaster situation or disaster;

(g) lay down guidelines for or give directions to the concerned Ministries or Provincial Governments and the Provincial Authorities regarding measures to be taken by them in response to any threatening disaster situation or disaster;

(h) for any specific purpose or for general assistance requisition the services of any person and such person shall be a co-opted member and exercise such power as conferred upon him by the Authority in writing.

(i) promote general education and awareness in relation to disaster management; and

(j) perform such other functions as the National Commission may require to perform.

This plan is also available at NDMA website www.ndma.gov.pk