

# Chapter 7

## The Interplay of Climate Change and Inflation in Sindh

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Sindh, located in southeastern Pakistan, faces significant socio-economic challenges that have been exacerbated by climate change and rising inflation. The 2022 floods, the most devastating in Pakistan's recent history, exposed the province's vulnerability to climate-induced disasters and deepened existing economic and social inequalities. This chapter examines how climate change, particularly floods, has contributed to inflationary pressures in Sindh and analyzes how inflation has, in turn, worsened the province's ability to respond to natural disasters. By focusing on the floods of 2022, we explore the direct and indirect impacts on various sectors, such as health, education, employment, food security, and infrastructure.*

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Sindh, located in southeastern Pakistan, faces significant socio-economic challenges that have been exacerbated by climate change and rising inflation. The 2022 floods, the most devastating in Pakistan's recent history, exposed the province's vulnerability to climate-induced disasters and deepened existing economic and social inequalities. This chapter examines how climate change, particularly floods, has contributed to inflationary pressures in Sindh and analyzes how inflation has, in turn, worsened the province's ability to respond to natural disasters. By focusing on the floods of 2022, we explore the direct and indirect impacts on various sectors, such as health, education, employment, food security, and infrastructure.

## **2. CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOODS IN SINDH**

### **2.1. Climate Change and Flooding Patterns**

Sindh, due to its geographic location, is highly vulnerable to climate change, particularly floods. Rising global temperatures have contributed to unpredictable monsoon patterns, intense rainfall, and glacial melt from the Himalayas and Hindu Kush mountains. The 2022 floods were a direct consequence of these changing weather patterns. According to the *Pakistan Meteorological Department*, Sindh received nearly 500% more rainfall than average during the monsoon season, contributing to catastrophic flooding that submerged vast areas of agricultural land and displaced millions of people (Dawn, 2022).

The floods were worsened by climate change, which has intensified weather events globally. Sindh has experienced a steady rise in average temperatures, leading to accelerated glacial melt, while warmer oceans contribute to increased moisture in the atmosphere, resulting in heavier rains (Patz & Thomson, 2018). These factors combined to create the extreme floods of 2022.

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