

**INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION WAS OBSERVED WITH GREAT ZEAL AND ENTHUSIASM**

(Press Release)

Dir Upper () The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in collaboration with the GLOF-II project implemented by UNDP, Federal Ministry of Climate Change observed International day for Disaster Risk Reduction with great zeal and enthusiasm. A Seminar was arranged on Environment and Climate Change Resilience followed by Tree plantation drive and mock drill activity at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Sheringal, Upper Dir.

Prof Dr. Rehmat Ali Khan vice chancellor (SBBU) welcomed the participants and highlighted the memories of recent past disasters, disasters are not only effecting the human lives but also severely damaging the socio-economic fabric of the country.

Participants were informed that climate change appeared to be a macro driver leading to changes in the environment. It may be seen as a threat multiplier that can worsen existing vulnerabilities, and in the future may lead to increased rural outmigration.

The identified extreme events include flash floods, Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), droughts, famines, water scarcity, deforestation, storm's.

PDMA KP Director-General Sharif Hussain said climate change had many hard-hitting and obvious impacts. If we are going to defeat climate change and address its impacts, we need to work together, he added. He said that PDMA KP deals with disaster management, disaster risk reduction, preparedness and planning.

Director General PDMA in his message said that disasters phenomenon cannot be stopped but can be reduced by taking DRR measures. As a nation there is a need to take the ownership and readiness for any volunteer work. He further said PDMA in its proactive role, is taking steps to nullify or manage disaster risks before it results in catastrophe. In this regard, actions are taken in the domains of risk assessments, mitigation and preparedness. He further emphasized that we need to reduce disaster risk through prevention and mitigation along with preparedness.

He added that education and awareness for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development address key thematic aspects of local and global sustainable development challenges and empower learners to think critically and in an interdisciplinary manner understand risks and complexity.

PDMA Director Disaster Risk Management Mrs. Zuhra Nigar, stressed on the implementation and enforcement of building codes policy, conducting geological surveys to identify vulnerable locations and multi hazard vulnerability assessment across the province.

She added that risk and uncertainties are increasing in the region due to climate change, greater frequency of extreme climatic events, extreme minimum and maximum temperature and increased incidence of temperature influenced disasters& pests. The world in general and Pakistan in particular is suffering as a

result of climate change. GLOF is another emerging phenomenon, observed especially in Chitral District (having a glacial cover of 4000 sq.km, the second largest glacial inventory in Pakistan after GB). The incidents of GLOF have posed some serious threats and challenges to the mountainous communities in the far-flung areas in recent times.

She said it is high time that we explore future potential challenges and start acting on them right now. It is our collective responsibility to protect those around us who are more vulnerable.

Fahad Bangish Provincial Coordinator GLOF 2 said on the occasion, I hope this seminar enables participants to gain a deeper understanding on the impact of climate change induced disasters, and the importance of building disaster resilient communities and institutions. Keeping this in mind, it is important to note that disasters hit hardest at the local level with the potential to cause loss of life and great social and economic upheaval. It is also at the local level that capacities need to be strengthened urgently.

In order to enhance the capacity to deal with the disasters like earthquake, GLOF and other natural disasters mock drills simulation exercise was also conducted in collaboration with the Rescue 1122 including the community members.

Spokesperson PDMA KP Taimur Ali said, the series of activities are planned for the month of October. PDMA conducts multiple activities in October to create public awareness about natural disasters and climate change adaptation.

Media Cell, PDMA KP