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## Policing Climate Change: Institutional Readiness of Law Enforcement in Sargodha, Pakistan

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### Abstract

This paper looks into institutional preparedness of law enforcement in Sargodha district, Punjab to address the conflicts and crime brought about by climate. The study determines the adequacy of training, interagency coordination, resource availability, and perceptions of climate-linked crime using a quantitative survey of 120 participants consisting of police officers, community members, and researchers. The evidence has shown that climate stress enhanced the increase of petty theft, illegal exploitation of resources, and water-related conflicts, and policing reactions are mostly reactive. Lack of specialized training, funding and coordination are major limiters to effective prevention and response and this has been statistically confirmed using chi-square results. Placing the experience of Sargodha in the context of the wider climate-security literature, the article suggests that climate-sensitive policing should be based on the three concepts of capacity building, institutional integration, and community involvement. The capacity to enforce law at the district level is vital in maintaining law and order and social stability during the time of environmental change.

**Keywords:** Climate Change, Resource Rivalry, Governance Environment, Sargodha District, Punjab.



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## **Introduction**

### **Climate Change as a Security and Governance Challenge**

Climate change has since gained momentum beyond the sphere of environmental management to be a multidimensional issue which touches on governance, security, and institutional legitimacy. Higher temperatures have changed the amount of precipitation, and the rising number of extreme weather events affects the livelihoods, transforms migration patterns, and increases the competition over limited resources (IPCC, 2023). This is directly related to the dynamics of order in the community, and law enforcing agencies have to address structurally different forms of insecurity, not the traditional crime. Increasingly, policing is understood not only as a mechanism of crime control but as a governance institution that shapes social vulnerability, protection, and wellbeing, particularly in contexts of structural stress and marginalization (Abidin & Husin, 2025).

Climate change is becoming a conceptualized threat multiplier that further increases the already existing social, economic, and political vulnerabilities instead of being a single factor in conflict (Rüttinger et al., 2015; UNDP, 2023). Environmental stress also increases grievance in situations characterized by poverty, inequality, and weak governance and increases the likelihood of crime, social disruption, and institutional overburden. In some nations like Pakistan where structural vulnerabilities already strain the ability of the government to govern, climate change further complicates the issue of internal security management.

### **Pakistan's Climate Vulnerability and Socioeconomic Impacts**

Pakistan is one of the most climate-prone nations in the world, and the threat of the environment is adjacent to socioeconomic vulnerability (Germanwatch, 2024). Over 60 percent of the population relies directly or indirectly on climate-sensitive agricultural livelihoods, which make environmental shocks socially disruptive and not just ecological in nature (World Bank, 2024). Regular floods, extended drought, melting ice sheets, and heat waves have led not only to humanitarian emergencies but also to issues of governance, such as movement, slumming and institutional tension.

The disasters associated with climatic conditions increase crime in indirect ways: economic destabilization, compromised informal regulation, and the lack of institutional presence in times of crisis (Burke et al., 2015; Mares, 2023). Movement and loss of income make one more vulnerable to theft, smuggling, and extraction of water and land resources illegally, and crises tend to produce regulatory gaps that allow corruption and abuse.

### **Policing and Environmental Change**

Police agencies are historically constructed to implement criminal law by deterrence and reaction to an incident. Nonetheless, climate change demands this reactive model because it creates slow-onset dangers, diffuse conflicts, and overlaps of humanitarian-security. Crises caused by climate are also increasingly demanding police to act in preventive, mediating, and coordinating functions (Blaustein, 2024).

New research on adaptive policing focuses on institutional flexibility, anticipatory intelligence, and interagency cooperation as three fundamental reactions to the complex environmental threats (Maczak, 2023). By contrast, the system of policing in Pakistan is highly hierarchical and reactive, and there is little embedded environmental intelligence or preventive models. The environmental law, disaster mediation, and climate-related conflict management are hardly

discussed during the training curricula, cutting off the ability of frontline officers to recognize and mitigate the tensions.

### **The Case of Sargodha District**

Sargodha district, which is in the central Punjab province, is an interesting example to study the nexus of climate change and policing. The area has an agricultural economy, mainly citrus fruits and is heavily reliant on irrigation water sources, which are supplied by the rivers of Jhelum and Chenab. Over the past couple of years, the shifts in monsoon, groundwater and soil erosion have had an impact on crop production and domestic earnings. These environmental pressures have led to conflicts on water distribution, rural urban migration and economic poverty aspects associated with higher cases of petty theft, illegitimate water connections and land conflicts.

In Sargodha, therefore, the police deal with an environment in which traditional crime is supplemented by resource-based conflicts and climate caused migration. This paper aims at determining whether these institutions are ready to address the challenges that arise as a result of climate stress. It discusses the adequacy of training, institutional coordination, funding and community trust to know how prepared the police are to address climatic related conflicts.

### **Research Problem and Rationale**

Alongside the increased awareness of climate change as a cause of social conflict and insecurity, policing reactions in Pakistan are still scarcely examined in the scientific community. The current body of research on climate security is predominantly concerned with macro-level effects including national security, migration, and food systems with very limited attention to how local institutions especially law enforcement agencies respond to the new risks associated with climate. However, the reactions to the conflicts and crimes caused by climate are most frequently caused at the district level when local police are the initial level of institutional interaction. Lack of preparedness at this scale not only impairs the short-term response capacity, but also compromises more extensive national preparations to climate adaptation.

This research is justified by the fact that such an important gap needs to be filled by exploring policing activities in Sargodha district, which is a climate stressed and agriculturally important area of Punjab. Through the perceptions of climate related crime and institutional preparedness, the study reveals the major structural and operational flaws within the local law enforcement and suggests the contextual based reforms. It thereby adds both policy and empirical evidence to the discussion of the role of policing in climate adaptation and resilience frameworks, and is of interest to both the governance of the district level and national planning.

The research has three main aims, the first being, to investigate the perceptions on climate change and the correlation of the change with crime trends in Sargodha; the second aim is to evaluate the institutional preparedness of law enforcement in matters of training, funding, manpower and inter-agency coordination; and the third goal is to make some policy recommendations on enhancing the climate sensitive policing strategies. These objectives will be used to answer three main questions in the research: How do police officers and community members view the relationship between climate change and crime? What are the institutional obstacles to good law enforcement in climate-induced settings? And what changes can improve adaptive capacity and confidence in climate responsive policing? These questions form the empirical analysis and also the policy-oriented recommendations that are presented in the study.

## Literature Review

### **Theoretical Framework: Climate Change and Human Security**

The human security framework offers a powerful conceptual discourse of looking at the climatepolicing nexus. Human security is more concerned with fear, want, structural vulnerability protection and it is not confined to the state concept of security but it incorporates the social, economic and environmental aspects of security (UNDP, 2023). Climate change destabilizes human security by undermining livelihoods, causing inequality, and institutional ineffectiveness, especially in climate-sensitive areas like South Asia (IPCC, 2023).

Researchers state that climate stress interacts with an institutional capacity to dictate security outcomes: strong institutions reduce the risk by adapting and regulating, whereas weak institutions enhance the insecurity (Hsiang et al., 2013; Burke et al., 2015). Policing as a first line governance institution, therefore, becomes central to climate adaptation not only as an enforcing institution but also as a mediator of social stability.

### **Climate Change and Crime Dynamics**

Empirical data are increasingly supporting the fact that an environment stress is related to crime. An increase in the temperature has been linked to the escalation of violent and property offenses (Ranson, 2014; Mares, 2023). Drought and floods interfere with the economic systems, which leaves an incentive to stealing and engaging in informal trade. Burke et al. (2015) established that temperature variations below average temperatures cause a severe risk of conflicts in low-income nations, which emphasizes the socioeconomic mechanisms between environment and security.

Recently, Rehman et al. (2022) found that migration due to climate effects is a factor that increases the congestion and crime in the medium sized cities of Punjab in Pakistan. Equally, Shafqat and Saeed (2023) established a positive correlation between local conflicts and theft and resource scarcity and agricultural loss in southern Punjab. The findings confirm the structural connections between the impact of environmental degradation and crime on the bases of poverty and resource scarcity.

### **Law Enforcement in Environmental Contexts**

The concept of environmental policing has developed to express the interaction of law enforcement agencies with the issues of the ecological and resources-options. First applied in the field of wildlife or pollution management, the notion has developed to have evolved to other wider pillars of governance like to control social disturbance associated with environmental stress (Matczak, 2023). One of the propositions that comes out of Blaustein (2024) is the concept of adaptive policing that focuses on foresight, collaboration, and flexibility in addressing complex climate caused problems.

In the developing countries, sexual policing is however shifting slowly towards adaptive policing. Reform is limited by limited budgets, political interference, and a lack of special training (Javed & Kamboh, 2020). Additionally, environmental crimes commendably tend to cut across jurisdictions, thus leaving gaps in enforcement. The policing policies which have not incorporated climate security puts local officers in a reactive position and unprepared.

## **Institutional Capacity and Interagency Coordination**

The readiness of the institution relies on the coordination of the agencies performing environmental, humanitarian, and security operations. Along with highlighting horizontal cooperation among institutions, continuous learning, and engagement with citizens, Norris and Inglehart (2019) insist that adaptive governance must be provided. However, the cooperation between the police on the one hand and the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) or the environmental agencies on the other is still disjointed in Pakistan. Response in disaster is usually characterized by duplication of mandates and slow communication.

Comparative research demonstrates that institutional synergy can intensively enhance the efficiency of climate response. In the Philippines, the collaboration between local governments and police on joint disaster response protocol enabled them to minimize response time in response to typhoons (UNDP, 2023). In Kenya, the inclusion of climate risk assessments in the police planning enhanced the trust of the community (Blaustein, 2024). These examples underscore the transformational opportunities of coordinated governance to climate security.

## **The Socioeconomic Dimension and Vulnerable Groups**

Climate change has a more significant impact on marginalized populations, which intensifies gender and class-related dispersions. In case of disaster, women, children, and the poor tend to be more vulnerable to crime and exploitation (UN Women, 2022). In Pakistan, it has been observed that gender-based violence and trafficking have occurred in post flood scenarios, which have demonstrated the overlap of humanitarian issues and the role of law enforcement. Therefore, the strategies employed by the police should be gender sensitive and protection mechanism.

## **Pakistan's Institutional and Policy Context**

The management of Pakistan on climate change has always been approached by environmental and disaster management, including the National Climate Change Policy (2021) and the National Adaptation Plan (2023). These reports recognize the social and security aspects of climate consequences but give limited responsibilities to the police organizations. Resultantly, local implementation is still feeble. Police presence is uncommon in the climate policy consultations, and there are no official systems to incorporate environmental intelligence into the police work (World Bank, 2024).

In the case of the Punjab Police, the structure of the police is based on the emphasis on traditional types of crimes, including theft, assault, and terrorism. Water theft, encroachment on the land, climate related disputes, and illegal extraction among others are not always within its jurisdiction or are done as civil matters. This institutional disjuncture indicates the lack of environmental mainstreaming in policing policies. The connection between climate governance and policing may be strengthened to address this gap, which will make both policing and institutions more resilient.

Although there is an upsurge in academic attention to climate security nexus, there are still a number of gaps in the research. First, local institutional responses are not given appropriate attention in most of the studies as they are centered on macro level conflicts or national security. Second, there is limited empirical studies on the policing in climate stressed settings especially in South Asia. Third, little focus has been made on the perceptions of the law enforcement officers themselves as they are major implementers of the strategies of adapting. This paper helps address these gaps by analyzing the Sargodha district as a micro-level reflection of the larger problem by combining data research with policy analysis.

## Research Methodology

### Research Design

The current study implemented a quantitative cross-sectional survey design, which was aimed at investigating the perception of institutional readiness and climate-related crime processes in the framework of local policing. It was decided that a cross-sectional approach would be suitable because it permits to capture the perceptions and institutional conditions systematically and at a particular moment, especially in environments where risks associated with climate change are changing fast. Quantitative surveys are popular in the research of policing and governance to determine the organizational capacity, policy gaps, and stakeholder perceptions to compare the statistical aspects of the respondent groups and confirm the observed patterns.

### Population and Sampling

Three major groups of stakeholders that are pertinent to climate-sensitive policing in the Sargodha district were the populations of the study, including police officers, members of the local community, and social researchers who studied policing, environmental governance, or citizen safety. The multi-respondent categories allowed taking a more detailed evaluation of the institutional preparedness using both the practitioner and the community point of view.

A stratified sampling method was used to achieve the balance of the representation of urban and rural areas and among police respondents, different ranks and functional areas. This would reduce the sampling bias and would increase the data representativeness. The final sample was found to be 120 respondents comprising of 61 police officers, 33 community members, and 26 researchers. This sample size was deemed to be sufficient to conduct descriptive and inferential statistical analysis at the district level as well as relates to comparable institutional perception research in the policing and governance literature.

### Instrumentation

Data was collected using a structured questionnaire developed specifically for this study, drawing on existing literature on climate security, institutional capacity, and community policing. The instrument consisted of 55 items measured on a five-point Likert scale ranging from *strongly disagree* (1) to *strongly agree* (5). The questionnaire was organized into four conceptual dimensions:

- 1. Perceptions of climate change impacts on crime**, including resource-related disputes, displacement, and livelihood-driven offenses.
- 2. Institutional readiness**, focusing on training, manpower, funding, and operational preparedness.
- 3. Interagency coordination and data systems**, assessing information sharing, early warning mechanisms, and institutional collaboration.
- 4. Public trust and community policing**, examining perceptions of police legitimacy, responsiveness, and preventive engagement.

Prior to data collection, the questionnaire was pre-tested on a small subset of respondents to assess clarity, relevance, and comprehension. Feedback from the pre-test informed minor revisions to wording and item sequencing. Additionally, the instrument was reviewed by academic experts in criminology and environmental governance to ensure content validity and contextual appropriateness.

## **Reliability and Validity**

Cronbachs alpha was used to determine the internal consistency of the questionnaire, and the result was 0.758, which is reasonable level of reliability when it comes to research in the social science field. The summary of respondent characteristics and general response patterns have been summarized using descriptive statistics. Chi-square tests were used to examine the relationship between perceived impacts of climate and institutional preparedness. One of the hypotheses was whether the current policing practices were considered adequate to tackle climate-related crimes and conflicts, and it was possible to empirically evaluate the adequacy of the institution.

## **Ethical Considerations**

During the research, social science ethics were very much adhered to. The research was purely voluntary and informed consent of all the respondents was taken before data collection. The subjects were guaranteed of anonymity and no identifiable information was taken. Academic purposes were the only reason to use data, which were stored in a secure place to guarantee secrecy. This research was conducted in compliance with the set ethics, in terms of protection of the participants, integrity of data and good research practices.

## **Results**

### **Perceptions of climate linked crime**

Their results show that there is high agreement among the respondents on connection between climate change and the emerging crime patterns in Sargodha district. A significant majority of the respondents viewed climate variability and extreme weather conditions as the direct cause of social tension and criminal action. About 90 percent of the surveyed people claimed that petty theft and opportunistic looting had increased in the times of environmental disturbance especially after floods and extended heatwave periods. In the same manner, 92% of them noticed that illegal extraction of resources such as unauthorized use of water and encroaching on land were on the increase and it was related to scarcity of resources as reported by the respondents.

Also, 83 percent of the respondents have experienced heightened conflicts over the allocation of water and land rights particularly in peri-urban and rural regions. Approximately eighty percent attribute the migration and reduction of agricultural jobs associated with climate factors and declining urban crime rates to environmental stressors, and indicate that climate stress factors indirectly predict criminal behavior based on economic and demographic routes. Taken altogether, these results show that the local awareness of climate change as the cause of both direct and indirect crimes is high.

### **Institutional Readiness and Capacity Constraints**

The answers that were associated with institutional preparedness showed that there is a general worry about the ability of law enforcement agencies to adequately react to climate-related crimes. Over 90 percent of the participants indicated that police officers did not have proper training on the prevention of climatic related crimes and security management related to disasters. A smaller percentage (95) of respondents reported inadequate funding as one of the most important constraints, which restricted the mobilization of resources by police units in the case of emergencies associated with climate.

Moreover, manpower shortages during crisis were cited by more than 85 percent of the respondents who said that the ordinary policing duties tend to conflict with the emergency response duty. These results were supported by qualitative feedback in the open-ended responses,

which often mentioned the lack of specific training modules, poor understanding of environmental regulations, and the inability to operate with guidelines to handle climate-related conflicts. All such capacity gaps cumulatively imply that current policing systems are mostly reactive and not preventive.

### **Coordination and Data Systems**

Another major institutional issue was the interagency coordination. About 66 percent of the respondents said that there was a weak communication and little coordination between the police and other concerned departments such as the environmental protection departments, irrigation departments and disaster management departments. The lack of formal procedures concerning the communication processes, respondents said, usually leads to a slow response rate and duplication of responsibilities in case of emergency.

More importantly, more than 90 percent stated that there is no standardized system of data and monitoring to monitor crimes related to climate or share information between institutions. The absence of centralized data was viewed as the significant barrier to the early warning, risk assessment, and evidence-based decision-making. Such fragmentation seriously limits the ability of law enforcement agencies to predict the emergent threats, as well as proactively deploying their resources.

### **Public Trust and Community Policing**

Although this is institutionally deficient, the results indicate that there is a fairly healthy view of police legitimacy in the face of climate-related crises. About 64 percent of community respondents said they could trust police to provide protection and aid during environmental disasters. There was also a significant increase in trust in those places where the police did not just do enforcement operations but also actively took part in relief activities, mediated disputes, and approached the community.

The encouragement of preventive measures was also found to be especially robust, as 91% of the respondents supported the idea of the expansion of community policing programs as a way of dealing with the risk associated with climate. The statistical tendencies showed that citizens trusted the police the most when they saw their presence, responsiveness in the time of disasters, and problem-solving efforts in cooperation with the local communities. These findings outline the potential of community-based policing as a resilience strategy in climate-stricken environments.

### **Statistical Validation of Institutional Adequacy**

These descriptive results were further supported by inferential analysis. A chi-square test of the perceived suitability of current policing strategies had a statistically significant value ( $\chi^2 = 1732.616$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ). This result influenced the rejection of the null hypothesis proving the common sense of the respondents that the existing law enforcement approaches are not sufficient to control the crimes and conflicts related to climate. The descriptive tendencies are supported by statistical evidence and justify the importance of systematic institutional changes and climate-responsive policing structures.

## Discussion

### Linking climate stress to security risks

This study contributes to accumulating international research on the idea that climate change is more a stressor of security than an environmental phenomenon per se. The effects of decreasing water supply, unpredictable weather conditions and climate-based disruption of livelihoods in Sargodha seem to be in contact with the already socioeconomically vulnerable population, resulting not only in opportunistic crimes (theft and illegal extraction), but also in structural violence over land and water. Those dynamics are consistent with the larger empirical data on South Asian and Sub-Saharan Africa, where the role of climate variability has been identified to amplify competition regarding limited resources and speed up the insecurity of migration (Hsiang et al., 2013; Burke et al., 2015; IPCC, 2023).

Notably, the findings imply that climate stress is not a direct cause of crime but it alters the social circumstances in which crime is more prone to occur specifically in agrarian and peri-urban environments. This observation confirms that climate change is a threat multiplier, which exacerbates existing inequalities, gaps in governance, and institutional strain (Ruttinger et al., 2015; UNDP, 2023). At the district level, where the law enforcement agencies form the face of the state power, these pressures put new and dense pressures on the policing institutions.

### Institutional Performance and Barriers to Adaptation

The general image of poor training, investment, and human resources also shows a severe competency gap in the institutions between conventional policing paradigms and security challenges caused by climatic conditions. Traditional methods based on deterrent actions, reactive enforcement and post incident response do not suit the landscape of addressing environmental stressors, which accumulate over time and overlap with social susceptibility. Comparative policing studies have drawn similar conclusions and stated that climate adaptation needs law enforcement agencies to take anticipatory, preventive, and mediatory roles (Blaustein, 2024; Matczak, 2023).

In Pakistani context, where there are no specific policy frameworks, budgetary allocations and operational guidelines, the police organizations have a reduced ability to move past reaction and be more of a preventive department. Lack of institutional acknowledgment of climate-related crime as a unique governance issue, means that the efforts of adaptation are still sporadic and reliant on personal initiative and not institutional change. These results reflect previous studies on the institutional capacity within the Pakistani context, which report short-term underfunding and limited mandate definitions as challenges to policing reform that were consistently encountered (Javed and Kamboh, 2020).

### Gendered Impacts and the Protective Role of Policing

The survey responses indicate that women and children are more vulnerable to climate-related disasters, which can be explained by the gendered aspect of climate insecurity. There has been a consistent relationship between floods, displacement and economic distress and the heightened risks of gender-based violence, exploitation and domestic violence, especially in the low-income and disaster-affected communities (UN Women, 2022; Neumayer and Plumpert, 2007). In this case, policing goes beyond crime control to encompass protective and humanitarian duties.

The effectiveness and legitimacy can be improved by incorporating gender-sensitive procedures in climate-responsive policing. The necessary coordination with social welfare departments,

health services and civil society organizations are necessary in terms of guaranteeing protection mechanisms, which will meet the needs of vulnerable groups. According to the previous research, police use of the victim-focused and gender-sensitive approach in a crisis can boost the levels of public trust and institutional credibility significantly (Tyler & Huo, 2002; Blaustein, 2024).

### **Community Engagement as a Source of Resilience**

A comparative high degree of community support of the participatory and preventive policing strategies is one of the most crucial discoveries of this research. The trust that the community had was deeply linked with the visible police actions during relief operation, conflict mediation and problem solving under the environmental stress. This complements the proven fact that community policing helps to increase institutional resilience through better flow of information, lessening misinformation, and reinforcing the informal forms of social control (Goldstein, 2016; Skogan, 2006).

Community engagement represents an early warning system in climate-stressed environments and the law enforcement agencies are able to identify any resource conflicts or migration pressures prior to them evolving into violence. The institutionalization of the community liaison jobs and local discussion platforms can thus be used as economically viable measures towards climate adaptation at the district level.

### **Comparative Insights and Lessons for Pakistan**

The effectiveness of institutional innovation in policing has been proven based on a comparison of experiences in countries that have experienced comparable climate vulnerabilities. Community-based disaster response teams in Bangladesh which include police, local governments, and volunteers have enhanced coordination and minimized conflict in floods (UNDP, 2023). Pilot projects in India that incorporate climate risk into police planning have led to the increased readiness to address heatwaves and water related conflicts (Mares, 2023).

These instances explain that adaptive policing can be practiced even when the environment is resource-constrained, when there is political will, interagency coordination, and even community participation. The applicability of the lessons to Pakistan is not about copying but contextualization to the provincial and district-level governance systems.

### **Toward a Framework for Climate-Sensitive Policing**

Drawing on the empirical findings and comparative literature, this study proposes a climate-sensitive policing framework integrating institutional, technological, and social dimensions:

#### **Capacity Building**

Police training academies should incorporate climate crime and environmental security modules into both pre-service and in-service curricula. Training should include environmental law, disaster risk management, mediation skills, and community engagement strategies (Matczak, 2023).

#### **Data and Early Warning Systems**

Establishing a Climate Crime Monitoring Cell at the district level can enable systematic collection and analysis of data linking environmental events to crime patterns. The use of open-source GIS and meteorological data can support hotspot mapping and anticipatory deployment (Blaustein, 2024).

## **Interagency Coordination**

Formal communication protocols between police, environmental protection agencies, irrigation departments, and disaster management authorities are essential for reducing fragmentation and improving response efficiency (Norris & Inglehart, 2019).

## **Community Policing Integration**

Environmental concerns should be embedded within existing community policing frameworks, engaging farmers' associations, local NGOs, and religious leaders in awareness and dispute-resolution initiatives.

## **Legal and Budgetary Reform**

Environmental and climate-related offenses should be explicitly incorporated into policing rules, accompanied by dedicated budget lines and performance indicators that incentivize preventive action.

This framework aligns with Pakistan's National Adaptation Plan (2023) and supports the achievement of SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).

## **Recommendations**

### **Human Resource Development**

Climate change, environmental crime, and disaster-related security risks should be added to the current police training institute curricula in specific modules. The continuous professional development can be assisted by the short-term diploma or certificate programs that are developed with the cooperation of universities. On smaller scale, such as the district level, small, specially-focused units or specific focal persons on climate and environmental security can assist in increasing preparedness without excessive overload on the existing structures.

### **Data-Driven Decision Making**

Climate responsive policing needs to be systematically incorporated into environmental data of the normal police work. Reporting systems in digital format are supposed to interconnect the incidents in the environment with the police FIRs to detect the new trends. Simple predictive tools and meteorological data can be used to aid early warning and informed response and coordination can be enhanced by structured data-sharing agreements with appropriate agencies.

### **Financial Sustainability**

There is need to have dedicated budgetary allocations to the activities relating to climate-related policing to provide continuity within the institution. Although donor financed pilot projects can aid innovation, it is sustainable investment in domestic financing that is part of normal policing budgets that is effective in the long run.

### **Community Engagement**

Institutionalization of community involvement should be liaison committees that would be dealing with water disputes, land issues and migration due to climate. Prevention can be reinforced by state education via local media and educational institutions, and open and unbiased policing in the case of emergency serves to ensure the trust of the population.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The important indicators to be monitored by the mechanisms should include training coverage, response times, and community trust. Regular communication of the trends of climate-related crime can enforce responsibility and warrant evidence-based policy corrections.

## **Conclusion**

Climate change poses new challenges in the law enforcement system that have never been previously experienced, demanding new competencies and more collaborative forms of governance. In Sargodha, the present study demonstrates that the environmental stressors have exacerbated the crimes involving resource related issues whereas the policing institutions have not been well-equipped to act in an effective manner. The lack of training, financial constraints, and disjointed coordination are limiting the transformation of reactive reaction to proactive, climate-sensitive policing. Meanwhile, the comparably high community trust and readiness to collaborate do offer a vital basis of the institutional reformation.

Institutional adaptation ought to then focus on three areas that are closely intertwined, namely building human capacity through targeted training, integration of the data systems to facilitate early warning and prevention, and strengthening community partnerships to make communities more resilient. The policymakers should note that climate change is not an environmental issue, but a governance challenge with direct consequences to the safety of the people. Following mainstreaming of climate sensitivity in policing systems can enhance human and institutional legitimacy as Pakistan faces increasing environmental change.

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