



Press Release

**A roundtable on funding for the Resident Coordinator system
on case study coordinated and comprehensive response to
Pakistan's flood 2022**

New York – April 13, 2023

The Development Coordination Office is preparing a series of case studies aiming to showcase the value addition of the Resident Coordinator system for effective UN development support to countries for SDG implementation and acceleration. One of these case studies is on the – Role of the reformed Resident Coordinator system in ensuring a “coordinated and comprehensive response to the Pakistan floods in 2022.

In this regard, a roundtable on funding for the Resident Coordinator system was held at the United Nations to discuss the case study on Pakistan on “Coordinated and Comprehensive response to Pakistan’s floods in 2022” being developed by the Development Coordination Office of the United Nations.

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari delivered a keynote address in the roundtable on funding for the Resident Coordinator system via video link.

In his Video Message, the Foreign Minister mentioned the sheer scale of destruction and disruption resulting from ‘monsoon on steroids’, as aptly described by the UN Secretary-General, is unprecedented.

He complimented the entire UN system, that has played a crucial role in supporting in this dire situation, the national efforts to respond and recover from this major natural calamity.

He mentioned the contributions of the Resident Coordinator system in particular saying that in the immediate aftermath of the floods, the Resident Coordinator Office served as one-stop shop, representing the UN system and humanitarian partners.

“This significantly streamlined coordination effort for the Government and ensured smooth exchange of information among all partners on the emergency situation in the country in the aftermath of floods,” he said.

He commended the efforts of the Resident Coordinator for his service also as the Humanitarian Coordinator. “This dual role enabled coordination and integration of the humanitarian and development responses at their very source” he added.

The Foreign Minister appreciated Mr. Julien and his able team for helping launch the flash appeal in a timely manner, and the UN Secretary-General's extraordinary support and his solidarity visit to Pakistan, immediately following the floods.

The Foreign Minister further said that "the 4RF provides an overarching framework for planning, financing, implementing and monitoring Pakistan's recovery efforts".

"We formally launched 4RF at the International Conference on Climate-Resilient Pakistan, co-hosted by the Prime Minister and the UN Secretary-General in Geneva in January 2023. Once again, I fully acknowledge the supporting role played by the RC Office in Islamabad in the organization of the Geneva moot, which helped us greatly in our efforts to marshal international support for our recovery plan" he informed.

He reiterated Government's commitment to transforming these plans into concrete and viable projects for timely and effective implementation.

He also recalled Pakistan's role as a leading voice in support of the UN development system's efforts, reforms, and initiatives aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of their development work, including at the national level.

"It may be recalled that in 2006, Pakistan volunteered to become a "Delivering as One" pilot country. The arrangement envisaged all UN entities in the country to work together more closely to increase effectiveness, improve results, relevance, and alignment with national priorities, so as to enhance efficiency and reduce duplication at the country level" he said.

Permanent Representative of Pakistan Ambassador Munir Akram in his opening during the meeting also emphasized Pakistan's long-standing and enduring partnership with the UN Development System. He acknowledged the work of UN Development System by saying that "over the last three years, the system has been put to the ultimate "stress test".

Mentioning the COVID-19 pandemic that had a particularly devastating impact on the developing countries serviced by the UN development system, he said that the “health systems stretched and shattered; lives and livelihoods devastated; revenues eviscerated; large debt liabilities and little fiscal space were impediments to recover from the pandemic and keep their economies afloat”. “The climate catastrophe is simply the coup de grace atop these challenges” he added.

He commended the preparations of national response programmes, coordinated with and often by Resident Coordinators which encompasses several UN agencies and organizations, including the country offices of WHO, UNDP, UNICEF and others.

He said that although the 4RF provides an overarching framework for planning, financing, implementing, and monitoring Pakistan’s recovery efforts, “we must make progress in transforming these plans into concrete and viable projects for timely implementation”.

He echoed the sentiments expressed by my Foreign Minister and expressed gratitude to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, for his unwavering support to our country in the aftermath of the devastating floods.

The Resident Coordinator of the United Nations, Pakistan, Mr. Julien Harneis also shared his remarks.

Member States also participated and exchanged their comments during the meeting.

The event was moderated by the Development Coordination office (DCO) Director, Assistant Secretary General Fernandez-Taranco.

**Text of a Video Message by the Foreign Minister for Resident
Coordinator Case Study on “Coordinated and Comprehensive
response to Pakistan’s floods in 2022”
(13 April 2023)**

**Assistant Secretary-General Fernández-Taranco,
Pakistan Resident Coordinator Julien Harneis,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I am honored to join you all today at presentation of this ‘Case Study’.

In the past three years, developing countries have been overwhelmed by cascading crises of global health, finance, and changing climate.

Pakistan is not an exception.

We had barely started recovering from the COVID

Pandemic when the most devastating climate catastrophe of this century struck us.

The sheer scale of destruction and disruption resulting from ‘monsoon on steroids’, as aptly described by the UN Secretary-General, is unprecedented.

With one third of country inundated, these floods of biblical proportion affected 33 million people, with more than 1,730 lives lost and 8 million displaced. Decades of development gains have been eroded, as manifest from projected increase in number of food-insecure and poor people.

In this dire situation, the entire UN system has played a crucial role in supporting our national efforts to respond and recover from this major natural calamity.

The Resident Coordinator system particularly contributed in this regard in three important ways.

First, in immediate aftermath of the floods, the Resident Coordinator Office served as one stop shop, representing the UN system and humanitarian partners.

The Resident Coordinator's Office was our go to place for coordinating UN response to catastrophic floods.

This significantly streamlined coordination effort for the Government, and ensured smooth exchange of information among all partners on the emergency situation in the country in the aftermath of floods.

In case of Pakistan, the Resident Coordinator wears two hats. He also serves as the Humanitarian Coordinator.

This dual role enabled coordination and integration of the humanitarian and development responses at their very source.

I greatly appreciate Julien and his able team for helping us to launch the flash appeal in a timely manner, and the UN Secretary-General's extraordinary support and his solidarity visit to Pakistan, immediately following the floods.

Second, the Resident Coordinator played a central role in closely coordinating the organization of the international relief and recovery assistance, especially through timely communications with the federal and provincial departments, multilateral agencies, and bilateral donors.

This ensured consistent and timely identification of relief needs and the sources and modalities to meet these needs. The seamless coordination helped us save precious lives and respond to humanitarian needs of the affected people in real time.

Third, the Resident Coordinator played a critical role in the formulation of Pakistan's comprehensive recovery plan. Through a team which the RC was instrumental in bringing together - the World Bank, Asian Bank, EU and UNDP with the relevant Pakistan ministries- we first developed a Post Disaster National Assessment (PDNA).

Later, in coordination with our partners from the UN system, the Government of Pakistan formulated the Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction framework.

The 4RF provides an overarching framework for planning, financing, implementing and monitoring Pakistan's recovery efforts.

We formally launched 4RF at the International Conference on Climate-Resilient Pakistan, co-hosted by the Prime Minister and the UN Secretary-General in Geneva in January 2023. Once again, I fully acknowledge the supporting role played by the RC Office in Islamabad in organization of the Geneva moot, which helped us greatly in our efforts to marshal international support for our recovery plan.

The Government's current focus is to transform these plans into concrete and viable projects for timely and effective implementation.

Excellencies,

Being a developing country, Pakistan has been a leading voice in support of the UN development system's efforts, reforms, and initiatives aimed at enhancing effectiveness of their development work, including at the national level.

It may be recalled that in 2006, Pakistan volunteered to become a "Delivering as One" pilot country. The arrangement envisaged all UN entities in the country to work together more closely to increase effectiveness, improve results, relevance and alignment with national priorities, so as to enhance efficiency and reduce duplication at the country level.

While we appreciate the good work being done by the RC system, we look forward to this system further enhancing its positive role in support of our national efforts for socio-economic uplift of the people and realization of the SDGs.

What is equally important is for the RC system to draw on the local expertise at all levels of its work more effectively, including by increasing the intake of Pakistani professionals in its staff.

Distinguished colleagues,

Lastly, on behalf of the people and the Government of Pakistan, I once again express our profound gratitude to Secretary General Antonio Guterres and his entire team for standing by us during the trying time.

We look forward to continued international support and forging long-term partnerships as we rebuild lives and livelihoods of the affected people in a sustainable and resilient manner.

I thank you.