

# PDMA KP PRIORITIZING EFFECTIVE DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Peshawar ( ):The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in close collaboration with Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and in partnership with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (APDC) and Community Resilience Initiative will work together to support the Government under the "Supporting Government in developing more synergized, cohesive, and inclusive disaster risk management policies" Project, Said Mr. Amer Afaq, Director General, PDMA KP during capacity building workshop focused on the Multi-Hazard Vulnerability Risk Assessment done in two districts, Chitral and D.I. Khan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, held at PDMA Office.

Experts from the government, academia and humanitarian sector attended the event and discussed the challenges pertaining to improved DRM policies, various assessment tools including remote sensing and Geographical Information System (GIS) and their use and importance in disaster management, as well as participated in group discussions and activities leading to valuable suggestions to improve DRM policies.

Mr. Afaq, while addressing the participants said, this is a very important exercise for PDMA, which need proper and updated information regarding our area's vulnerability to both natural and man-made disasters. He said, One dollar spent today for preparedness (assessments) can save us 10 dollars tomorrow for response. He said, PDMA request each district's administration and line departments to coordinate and facilitate the implementing partners to make this initiative successful as it is going to help us become disaster resilient.

Ms. Bella Evidente, Country Program Manager, UN-Habitat Pakistan said, "UN-Habitat is pleased to provide technical advisory support to the provincial Government through PDMA in strengthening the policy and planning process at provincial and district levels. She said, the investment in good quality assessment pays back during the master planning and improvement of socio-economic conditions of the area. She said, UN-Habitat is proud to be working closely with the Government of KP for a cohesive and inclusive policy advice and support."

Mr. Amer further added, the Multi-Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessments were carried out in Chitral and D.I. Khan with the involvement of the government, academic, and science-based institutions. He said, Local/community engagement and participation during project implementation was a significant component allowing the grassroots expertise to be consulted to the maximum extent possible. Dissemination of information and transfer of knowledge to relevant National, Provincial, and District officials were undertaken along with defining roles and responsibilities to facilitate effective coordination among all stakeholders in increasing resilience in these districts and successfully manage repeated disasters, he concluded.



