MOST IMMEDIATE

F.2(E)/2026-NDMA (MW/ Drought Watch)
Government of Pakistan
Prime Minister's Office
National Disaster Management Authority (HQ)
Main Murree Road Near ITP Office, Islamabad

Dated: **24 November 2026**

Subject: **Drought Watch**

Pakistan Meteorological Department (**Annex-A)** has issued **Drought Watch Advisory** highlighting **mild drought conditions** in **Sindh**, **Balochistan** and **Southern Punjab**, for which pre-emptive preparedness measures are advised. The mentioned advisory is intended for early awareness and preparedness and does not constitute a declaration of a drought emergency. Details of said drought watch Advisory are as:-

a. **Current Situation**. From **1st July to 20th November 2026**, the **Southern parts** of the country particularly **Sindh**, **Balochistan** and **southern Punjab** received **below-normal rainfall**, producing a persistent and cumulative precipitation deficit. Shortfall during the Monsoon season (**July–September**) is of particular concern, as the Monsoon is an important source of seasonal rainfall for these regions.

An increase in **Consecutive Dry Days** (**CDDs**) has also been observed across southern Pakistan, indicating prolonged dry spells. The combination of cumulative **rainfall deficiency** and extended **dry spells** is expected to cause progressive depletion of soil moisture, increased evapotranspiration-related moisture stress and reduced water availability for agricultural and domestic use. These conditions are most critical in **rain-fed agricultural areas** and in regions already facing **water- resource constraints**. The spatial distribution of consecutive dry days is shown in Figure 1 and the corresponding absolute and percentage rainfall departures are given in Table 1.

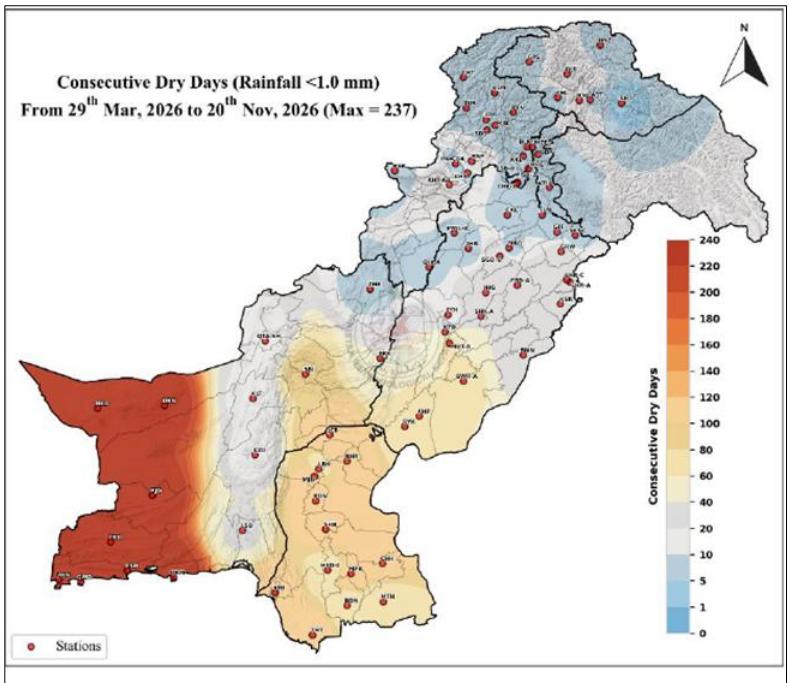


Figure 1: Consecutive Dry Days (rainfall < 1.0 mm)

b. **Rainfall Departure by Region**. Table 1 sets out the absolute and percentage area averaged departure of rainfall from normal for each month of the assessment period. Negative values indicate **below-normal rainfall**. **Sindh** and **Balochistan** show a continuous deficit across all five periods. October and November are climatologically **dry months** over **Southern Pakistan**. The modest **October** surplus in **Punjab**, **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** and **Gilgit- Baltistan** does not extend to the **southern provinces**.

Table 1: Departure of Rainfall from Normal (1991-2020), 1 July to 20 November 26

Region	July		August		September		October		November (1–20)	
	Departure		Departure		Departure		Departure		Departure	
	(mm)	(%)	(mm)	(%)	(mm)	(%)	(mm)	(%)	(mm)	(%)
Punjab	13.6	13%	-20.3	-21%	-2.9	-6%	5.6	52%	-2.0	-74%
Sindh	-32.1	-61%	-13.3	-22%	-27.9	-90%	-5.6	-100%	-1.4	-99%
Balochistan	-11.4	-41%	-2.7	-12%	-5.8	-68%	-3.1	-80%	-1.7	-79%
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	-9.4	-9%	-33.1	-31%	-1.6	-3%	3.7	13%	3.9	21%
Azad Jammu & Kashmir	-8.4	-5%	-37.3	-27%	-22.7	-32%	1.6	6%	-2.5	-12%
Gilgit-Baltistan	15.4	108%	-7.6	-37%	-5.6	-33%	4.1	83%	6.1	29%

c. **Seasonal Outlook (December 2026 - February 2027)**. The winter (DJF) seasonal rainfall outlook indicates a likelihood of **normal** to **below-normal precipitation** over Sindh, Balochistan and Southern Punjab, raising concern about the persistence and possible intensification of prevailing **dry conditions.** Winter rainfall is important for replenishing soil moisture, supporting Rabi crops and improving water availability in these regions. The anticipated rainfall deficiency may therefore limit the natural recovery of soil moisture following an already deficient monsoon, particularly in the rain-fed agricultural areas of Sindh. A continuation of normal to below-normal precipitation through DJF, following several months of inadequate rainfall and prolonged dry spells, could further increase agricultural water stress, adversely affect crop growth and development, and place additional pressure on surface and groundwater resources.

d. **Key Anticipatory Actions**

(1) Closely monitor the evolving drought situation in the province through the District Coordination Committees, ensuring the activation of early warning systems and effective community-level awareness and information dissemination.

(2) Identify vulnerable communities and prepare beneficiary lists to enable targeted support and the timely implementation of response measures.

(3) Implement water conservation practices at the farm and community levels, such as mulching, efficient irrigation techniques, and judicious water use, to optimize available water resources.

(4) Conduct drought assessments, update livestock movement and water source maps, and mobilize veterinary health services and feed support at the district level to safeguard livestock and livelihoods.

2. Forwarded for information / necessary action, please.



(**Muhammad Farhan Abbasi**)
Director (Response)
Tel No: 051-9030924
Fax No: 051-9030729

(DISTRIBUTION LIST BELOW)

DISTRIBUTION LIST

To: Secretary, Ministry of Interior (MoI), Isd
Secretary, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination (MoNHSR&C), Isd
Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MoIB), Isd
Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC), Isd
Secretary, Ministry of Communications (MoCM), Isd
Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Isd
Secretary, Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MoNFS&R), Isd
Secretary, Ministry of Energy (MoE), Isd
Chief Secretary, All Provincial Governments, GB & AJ&K
Secretary, Irrigation Departments, All Provincial Governments, GB & AJ&K
Director General, Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Isd
Director General, Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA), Karachi
Director General, Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA), Karachi
Chairman, Federal Flood Commission (FFC), Isd
Chairman, National Highway Authority (NHA), Isd
Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC), Isd
Principal Information Officer, Press Information Department (PID), Isd
Chairman, WAPDA, Lahore
General Manager, Tarbela Dam Authority
General Manager, Mangla Dam Authority
Director Generals, PDMAs, GBDMA & SDMA
Chief Commissioner & Deputy Commissioner ICT
Deputy Director (Control Room/NCIMC), Ministry of Interior, Isd
Director General, Rescue 1122, All Provincial Governments, GB & AJ&K
Director General (Policy Matters), Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Isd
Headquarters, Frontier Works Organization (FWO), Rawalpindi
Headquarters, National Highways & Motorway Police (NH&MP), Isd
Headquarters, National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), Isd
Headquarters, National Transmission & Dispatch Company (NTDC), Isd
Headquarters, Pakistan Railways, Lahore

Cc: Additional Secretary-I, to Prime Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Isd
Secretary, Cabinet Division, Isd
Deputy Secretary (Cabinet), Prime Minister's Office, Isd
Additional Secretary, Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Isd
Joint Crisis Management Cell, Defence Forces Headquarters (DFH), Chaklala Cantt
Military Operations Directorate (MO-4), General Headquarters, Rawalpindi Cantt
Engineers Directorate, General Headquarters, Rawalpindi Cantt
ACNS (Operations), Naval Headquarters, Isd
ACAS (Operations), Air Headquarters, Isd
Joint Maritime Information Coordination Center (JMICC), Manora, Karachi
Headquarters, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency, Karachi
Headquarters, Pakistan Coast Guards, Karachi

ID: COS
Member (Ops)
Member (DRR)
Member (A&F)
DG Estb
ED Plans
ED IC
ED RM&M
ED IA&PD
ED NIDM
ED Tech (E&M)
ED Tech 1
ED Tech 2
ED NR
ED RF
ED CoE
Dir C&P
Dir Log
Dir R&R
DD NEOC

Annex A

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
PAKISTAN METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT
National Drought Monitoring & Early Warning Centre (NDMC)
Sector H-8/2, Met Complex, Islamabad, Pakistan
Ph: 051-9250598 | Email: ndmcpmd@gmail.com | www.weather.gov.pk

No. DR-5/DRT/ADV/ALERT/2021-22 Islamabad, 20 November 2026

DROUGHT WATCH

Advisory status	Pre-emptive preparedness advised for mild drought conditions. This is not a drought emergency declaration.
Areas concerned	Sindh, Balochistan and southern Punjab.
Next update	5th December 2026 (Monthly Drought Bulletin).

1. Current Situation

From 1 July to 20 November 2026, the southern parts of the country particularly Sindh, Balochistan and southern Punjab received below-normal rainfall, producing a persistent and cumulative precipitation deficit. The shortfall during the monsoon season (July–September) is of particular concern, as the monsoon is an important source of seasonal rainfall for these regions.

An increase in Consecutive Dry Days (CDDs) has also been observed across southern Pakistan, indicating prolonged dry spells. The combination of cumulative rainfall deficiency and extended dry spells is expected to cause progressive depletion of soil moisture, increased evapotranspiration-related moisture stress, and reduced water availability for agricultural and domestic use. These conditions are most critical in rain-fed agricultural areas and in regions already facing water-resource constraints. The spatial distribution of consecutive dry days is shown in Figure 1 and the corresponding absolute and percentage rainfall departures are given in Table 1.

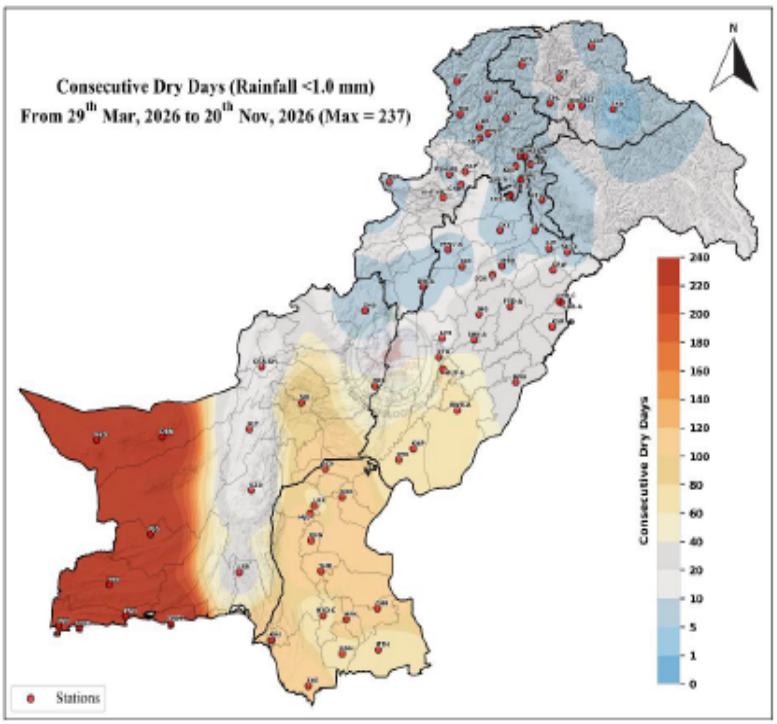


Figure 1: Consecutive Dry Days (rainfall < 1.0 mm)

2. Rainfall Departure by Region

Table 1 sets out the absolute and percentage area averaged departure of rainfall from normal for each month of the assessment period. Negative values indicate below-normal rainfall.

Table 1: Departure of rainfall from normal (1991-2020), 1 July to 20 November 2026

Region	July		August		September		October		November (1–20)	
	Departure		Departure		Departure		Departure		Departure	
	(mm)	(%)	(mm)	(%)	(mm)	(%)	(mm)	(%)	(mm)	(%)
Punjab	13.6	13%	-20.3	-21%	-2.9	-6%	5.6	52%	-2.0	-74%
Sindh	-32.1	-61%	-13.3	-22%	-27.9	-90%	-5.6	-100%	-1.4	-99%
Balochistan	-11.4	-41%	-2.7	-12%	-5.8	-68%	-3.1	-80%	-1.7	-79%
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	-9.4	-9%	-33.1	-31%	-1.6	-3%	3.7	13%	3.9	21%
Azad Jammu & Kashmir	-8.4	-5%	-37.3	-27%	-22.7	-32%	1.6	6%	-2.5	-12%
Gilgit-Baltistan	15.4	108%	-7.6	-37%	-5.6	-33%	4.1	83%	6.1	29%

Sindh and Balochistan show a continuous deficit across all five periods. October and November are climatologically dry months over southern Pakistan. The modest October surplus in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan does not extend to the southern provinces.

3. Seasonal Outlook (December 2026 - February 2027)

The winter (DJF) seasonal rainfall outlook indicates a likelihood of normal to below-normal precipitation over Sindh, Balochistan and southern Punjab, raising concern about the persistence and possible intensification of prevailing dry conditions. Winter rainfall is important for replenishing soil moisture, supporting Rabi crops and improving water availability in these regions.

The anticipated rainfall deficiency may therefore limit the natural recovery of soil moisture following an already deficient monsoon, particularly in the rain-fed agricultural areas of Sindh. A continuation of normal to below-normal precipitation through DJF, following several months of inadequate rainfall and prolonged dry spells, could further increase agricultural water stress, adversely affect crop growth and development, and place additional pressure on surface and groundwater resources.

4. Key Anticipatory Actions

- Closely monitor the evolving drought situation in the province through the District Coordination Committees, ensuring the activation of early warning systems and effective community-level awareness and information dissemination.
- Identify vulnerable communities and prepare beneficiary lists to enable targeted support and the timely implementation of response measures.
- Implement water conservation practices at the farm and community levels, such as mulching, efficient

irrigation techniques, and judicious water use, to optimize available water resources.

- Conduct drought assessments, update livestock movement and water source maps, and mobilize veterinary health services and feed support at the district level to safeguard livestock and livelihoods.

Distribution

1. Military Secretary to the Prime Minister, Islamabad
2. Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Rawalpindi
3. Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination
4. Secretary, Ministry of National Food Security & Research
5. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources
6. Director to the Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination
7. Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
8. Chairman, Federal Flood Commission (FFC)
9. Chairman, Indus River System Authority (IRSA)
10. Chief Secretary, Government of Sindh
11. Chief Secretary, Government of Balochistan
12. Secretary, Irrigation / Agriculture Department, Government of Sindh
13. Secretary, Irrigation / Agriculture Department, Government of Balochistan
14. Director General, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Sindh
15. Director General, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Balochistan
16. Director General, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Punjab
17. Directors, Regional Meteorological Centres (RMCs)
18. Electronic and Print Media