



**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
ISLAMABAD**



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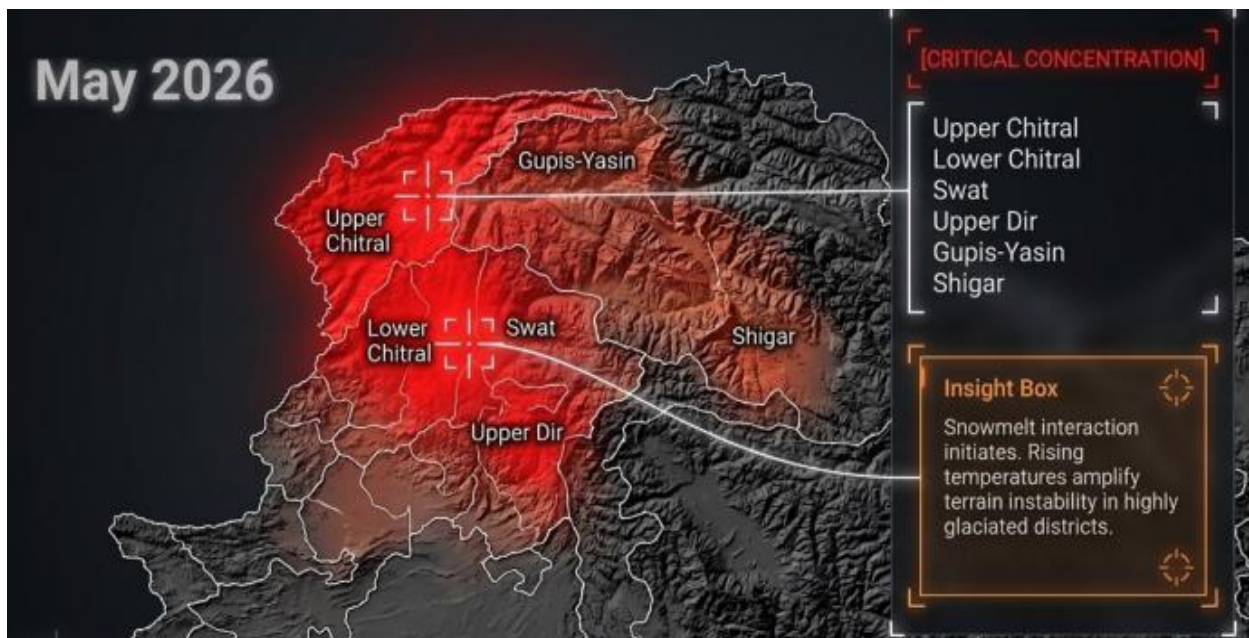
Islamabad, dated 20th May 2026

Subject: Landslide Infrastructure Advisory – May to June 2026

1. As Pakistan transitions from winter into the pre-monsoon season, mountainous regions of northern Pakistan, spanning Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), face significantly **elevated landslide susceptibility during the months of May, and June 2026**. This seasonal shift is driven by the compounding interaction of increasing pre-monsoon precipitation, **rising temperatures, and accelerated snowmelt in high-altitude areas**. The progressive soil saturation, rising pore-water pressure, and weakened slope cohesion create conditions highly conducive to slope failure across steep, tectonically active terrain. Early warning indicators and seasonal analysis indicate that landslide intensity escalates toward June, when early monsoon rainfall substantially amplifies risk across the region.

2. In May, the spatial distribution of landslide susceptibility becomes more concentrated in northern mountainous regions, particularly in specific hotspots. The combination of increasing rainfall and **sustained snowmelt begins to elevate slope failure risk**. Susceptibility clusters indicate the development of early slope failure conditions in high-elevation valleys and along steep terrain corridors. **Vulnerable areas include:-**

- a. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Chitral (Upper and Lower), Upper Dir, and Swat.
- b. Gilgit-Baltistan: Gupis-Yasin and Shigar districts.



3. June represents the peak landslide susceptibility period within the April–June assessment window. High-density susceptibility clusters appear prominently across multiple districts, corresponding with early monsoon rainfall onset and high antecedent soil moisture.

Above-normal temperatures accelerate snowmelt, elevate pore-water pressure, and destabilize both historical and previously marginal slopes. Over 100 critical unstable sites are identified, concentrated along the N-35 corridor and vulnerable valleys. **Vulnerable areas include:-**

- a. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Swat, Upper Dir, Lower Dir, Shangla, Upper Kohistan, Lower Kohistan, Battagram, Mansehra, and Torghar.
- b. Azad Jammu & Kashmir: Neelum Valley, Muzaffarabad, Haveli, and Bagh.
- c. Gilgit-Baltistan: Diamer, Astore, Ghizer, Gupis-Yasin, and Gilgit districts.
- d. Critical Corridors: Hunza Valley, Gilgit, Diamer/Chilas, Neelum, Ghizer/Gahkuch, Nagar, Astore, and Skardu along the N-35 (KKH) corridor.



4. Critical **infrastructure assets at risk** from landslide events in this season include:-

- a. Transportation networks, including the Karakoram Highway (N-35/KKH), the Neelum Road, and inter-district road connections linking remote valleys.
- b. Bridges, culverts, and river crossing structures situated in mountain gorges and narrow valley corridors.
- c. Power transmission lines, hydropower installations, and communication infrastructure.
- d. Water supply systems, irrigation channels, and sewerage networks in valley-bottom settlements.
- e. Residential buildings, schools, health facilities, and other public structures in slope-adjacent communities.

5. Landslides can generate multiple and cascading infrastructure impacts during the May-June 2026 period, including:-

- a. **Road Blockages and Connectivity Disruptions:** Landslides can block mountain roads, most critically the N-35 (Karakoram Highway) and Neelum Road, making essential routes impassable and disrupting logistics, humanitarian access, emergency response, and trade connectivity.
- b. **Structural Damage:** Buildings including residential structures, schools, health facilities, and hotels can suffer direct impact from landslide debris. Non-engineered stone-and-wood constructions on steep slopes are especially vulnerable.
- c. **Bridge and Infrastructure Damage:** Bridges at gorge crossings and culverts in narrow valleys are particularly vulnerable. Telecommunication towers, power transmission lines, and water supply systems can also be severely disrupted or destroyed.

6. In view of the above, all concerned **Federal Ministries / Departments, respective Provincial Governments, and their line departments including PDMAs / GBDMA / SDMA / DDMAs / local administrations** are advised to ensure the following measures, along with any other steps deemed necessary:-

- a. Conduct **inspections of all critical infrastructure**, roads, bridges, culverts, retaining walls, power lines, and communication towers, situated in or adjacent to landslide-prone corridors, prioritizing the N-35 (KKH), Neelum Road, and district connector roads in KP, AJK, and GB.
- b. Construct or **reinforce retaining walls, catch fences, debris barriers, and protective bunds at high-risk road sections** and settlement boundaries.
- c. Ensure drainage systems along mountain roads and at settlement outskirts are fully operational and free of blockages.
- d. Issue regular traffic advisories and carry out road-closure operations proactively during periods of sustained or intense rainfall, particularly during May and June when susceptibility peaks.
- e. Suspend or **strictly regulate new construction activities on steep slopes**, near slope faces, and along identified landslide run-out zones, particularly from May through June, when soil saturation is at its highest.
- f. **Postpone blasting, excavation, and heavy construction operations during peak susceptibility periods**, as vibrations from such activities can trigger slope failures in already weakened terrain.
- g. Prohibit the establishment of labour camps, material storage areas, or temporary worker accommodations **within identified landslide hazard zones**.

- h. Pre-position emergency earthmoving machinery, road clearance equipment, and engineering response teams at strategic locations along the KKH, Neelum Road, and key district highways in KP and GB.
- i. Establish and communicate clear evacuation routes, assembly points, and safe shelter locations for communities in landslide-prone valleys, particularly those with no alternative evacuation path.
- j. Educate local communities on **identifying warning signs of slope instability, including cracking in slopes** or building foundations, unusual water seepage, tilting of trees or structures, and unusual sounds from hillsides.
- k. Advise residents in vulnerable settlements to **avoid construction or storage of heavy materials near slope edges** and to maintain natural vegetation cover on slopes to reduce erosion.

7. The following additional measures are recommended for the Mines & Minerals Department, Mines Development Department, and other relevant agencies:-

- a. **Suspend mining operations on steep slopes** and within identified landslide hazard zones from May onwards, when soil saturation increases and slope stability is most critically reduced.
- b. Prohibit blasting operations during or immediately after periods of rainfall, as **ground vibrations can trigger slope failures** in already saturated and weakened terrain.
- c. Prohibit the establishment of mining camps, storage areas, or worker accommodations within identified landslide run-out zones **to prevent loss of life and equipment.**

8. Forwarded for information/ necessary action by all concerned, please.