



Pakistan Meteorological Department

National Drought Monitoring Centre (NDMC)

Meteorological Headquarters

Islamabad, Pakistan

Islamabad, 2nd April, 2021

Drought Alert-I (UPDATE)

Subject: Drought Conditions are Exacerbating in Balochistan.

As predicted by Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), the country overall received below normal (-41.5%) rainfall during (Oct-20 to Mar-21). The main thrust was in Balochistan (-74.5%) and Sindh (-77.3%) while it remained above normal during November throughout the country. The rainfall departure (%) detail is as follows:

Table-1 Area weighted rainfall departure (%) during October 2020 to March, 2021

	2020			2021			Oct-2020 to Mar-2021
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Sindh	-100.0	68.8	-54.9	-100.0	-100.0	-68.4	-77.4
Balochistan	-100.0	98.5	-74.2	-100.0	-63.3	-53.2	-74.5
Punjab	-100.0	153.3	-14.1	14.81	-93.7	2.7	-27.2
KP	-94.8	246.5	-29.2	-78.0	-72.4	4.2	-23.5
GB/Kashmir	-100.0	54.2	-11.3	8.8	-62.8	-2.1	-19.8
Pakistan	-98.3	157.3	-43.6	-55.8	-84.9	-12.9	-41.5

2. The west to the south-west districts of Balochistan are winter (Dec-Mar) rainfall dominant and do not receive rainfall during April to November. Due to deficient of pre-winter and winter rainfall, a moderate drought like condition has emerged in the southern parts of Balochistan and Sindh (Fig-1). The moderate drought is prevailing in districts of Balochistan (**Chagi, Gawadar, Harnai, Kech, Kharan, Mastung, Nushki, Pishin, Panjgur and Washuk**) and Sindh (**Badin, Qambar Shahdadt, Mirpur Khas, Umerkot, Sanghar, Tharparkar, Thatta and Sajwal**) (Fig-2). The climatological normal shows that the Sindh province remains dry during October to May, and moderate drought prevailed during these months.
3. Keeping in view the climatology and current seasonal forecast of PMD for these areas, drought conditions may further exacerbate and affect the agriculture and live stocks.
4. It is advised to all stakeholders to take pre-emptive measures for disaster prone districts. Farmers/agriculturists are advised to keep themselves updated from PMD website <http://www.pmd.gov.pk>.
5. NDMC is continuously monitoring the drought situation over the country and keeping the stakeholders and general public updated by issuing drought information on a fortnightly and monthly basis.

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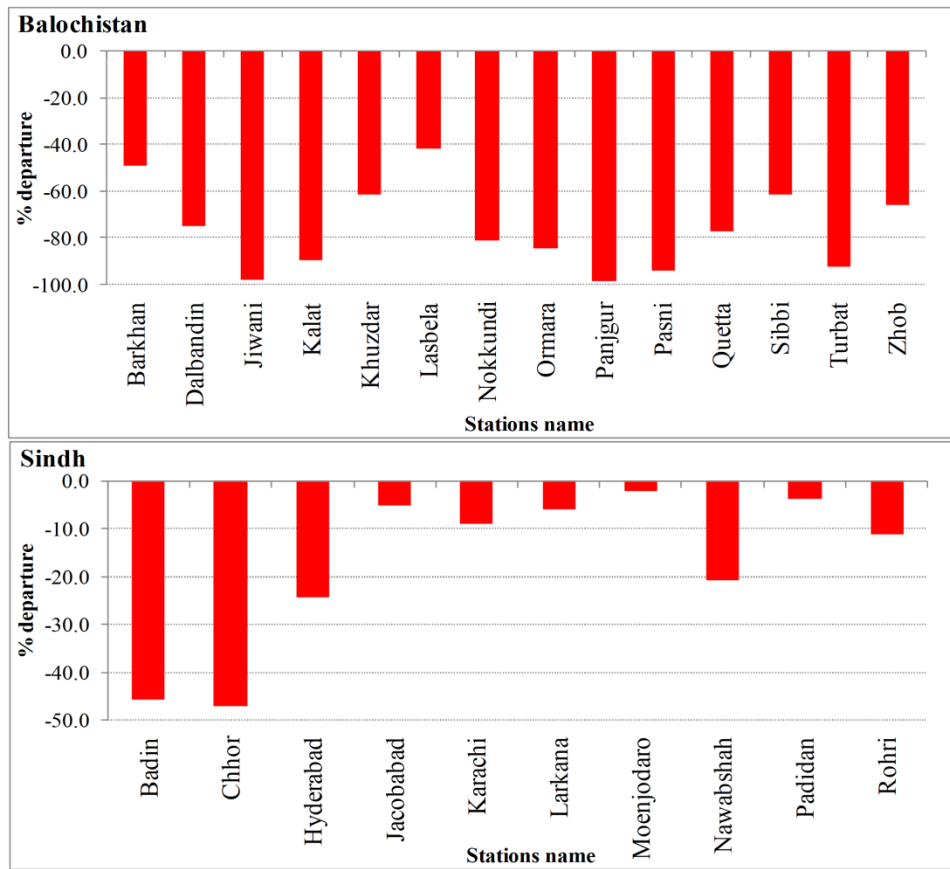


Figure 1 Seasonal rainfall departure (%) during Oct-20 to Mar-21 of Balochistan and Sindh.

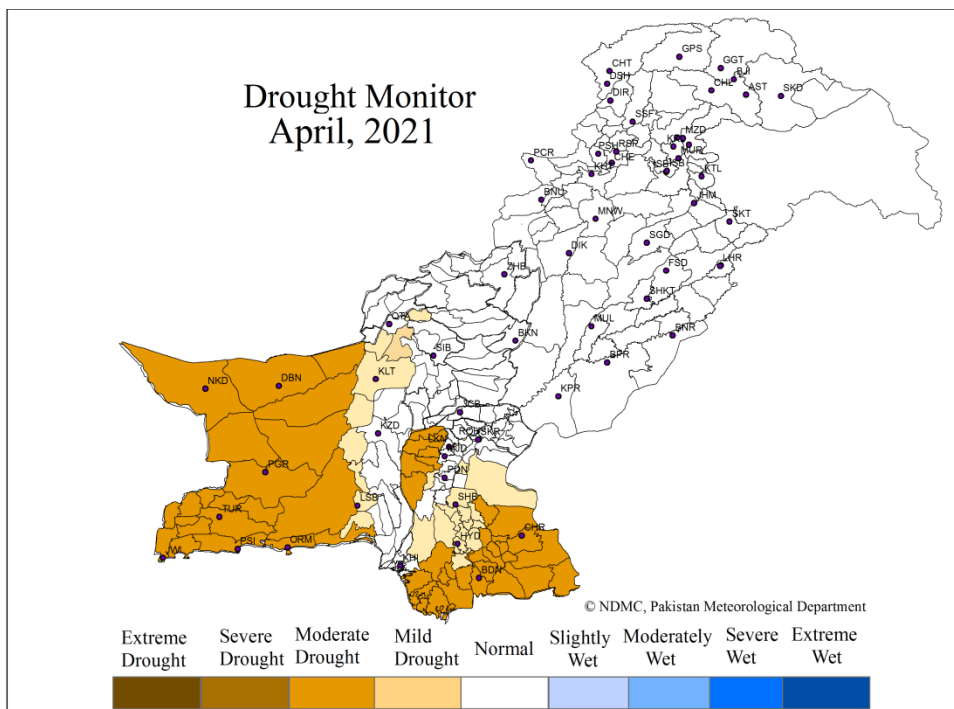


Figure 2 Drought conditions in Pakistan