



Pakistan Meteorological Department

National Drought Monitoring Centre (NDMC)

Meteorological Headquarters

Islamabad, Pakistan

Islamabad, 16th May 2022

SUBJECT: DROUGHT ALERT-I

The country overall received below normal (**-21.6%**) rainfall from January to April 2022. Due to a good amount of rainfall during January, the previous drought conditions became normalized. In spite of intermittent rainfall spells for the rest of the months helped to sustain the normal conditions in the country. The rainfall departure (%) detail is as under:

Table-1 Area weighted rainfall departure (%) from January to April 2022

	2022				January to April
	January	February	March	April	
Balochistan	178.8	-89.3	-68.0	-79.6	-17.0
Sindh	690.9	-95.1	-49.6	-53.4	69.4
KP	115.8	-67.2	-67.7	-74.1	-39.6
Punjab	254.7	-65.2	-72.6	-90.5	-16.3
GB/Kashmir	102.9	-41.2	-48.2	-65.4	-25.0
Pakistan	181.8	-71.9	-64.6	-76.5	-21.6

2. Due to an abrupt increase in daily maximum temperature, heatwave situation was observed from mid of March till the date and land surface temperature remained very high (Fig-1) which affected the low rainfall region i.e., Sindh, Balochistan, south Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and southern Punjab (**Cholistan region**). Keeping in view the impact of heatwave, the drought-like situation has emerged over most of the high-temperature regions of the country.
3. Most districts of the west to south-west Balochistan are winter rainfall dominant and rainfall amount varies between 71 to 231mm. The heatwave suppressed the moisture conditions and resulted in the severe drought-like condition in the **Chagi** district whereas moderate conditions have emerged over the **Kharan, Nushki and Washuk** districts of Blochistan. Similarly, mild drought conditions have arisen in most Sindh, South Punjab and Southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Fig-2).
3. Keeping in view the climatology and current seasonal forecast of PMD for these areas, drought conditions may exacerbate and affect the agriculture, water resources and live stocks till mid of June 2022 (before the arrival of the summer monsoon). Dry conditions may cause water stress in the cultivated lands/areas of the country due to the limited availability of irrigation water for Kharif crops.
4. It is advised to all stakeholders to take pre-emptive measures for disaster-prone districts. Farmers/agriculturists are advised to keep themselves updated on the PMD website <http://www.pmd.gov.pk>.
5. NDMC is continuously monitoring drought situations over the country and keeping the stakeholders and general public updated by issuing drought information on a weekly, fortnightly and monthly basis.

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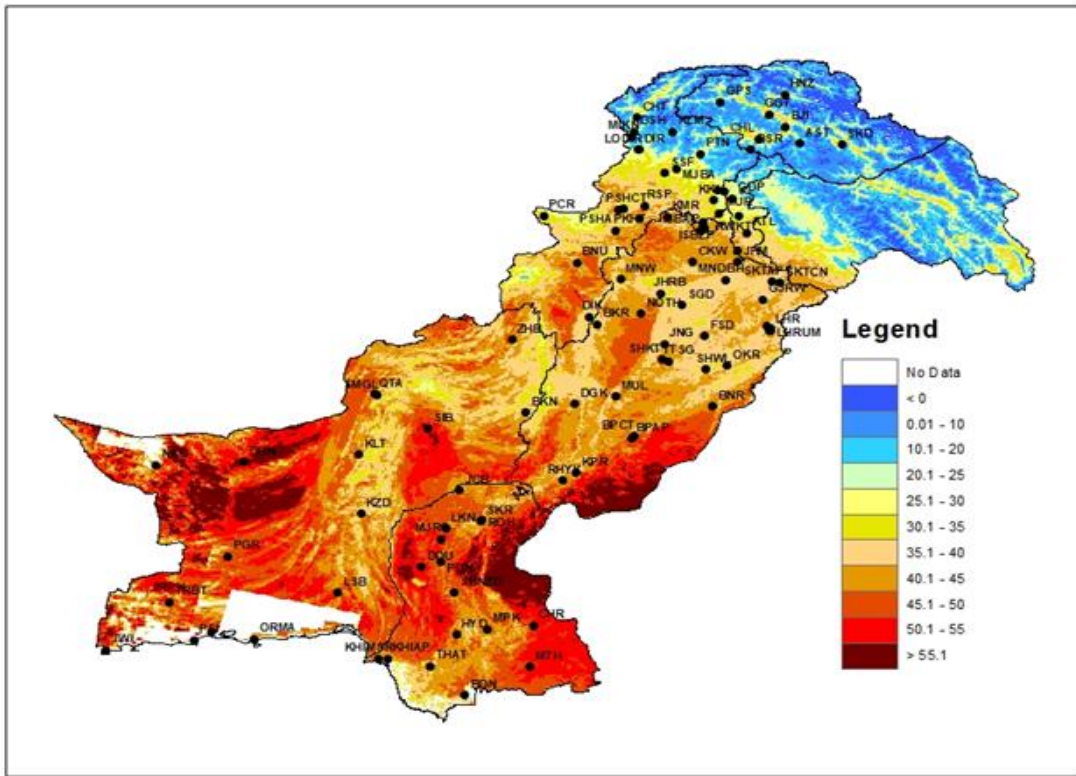


Figure 1 Land Surface Temperature (LST) °C of Pakistan April 2022

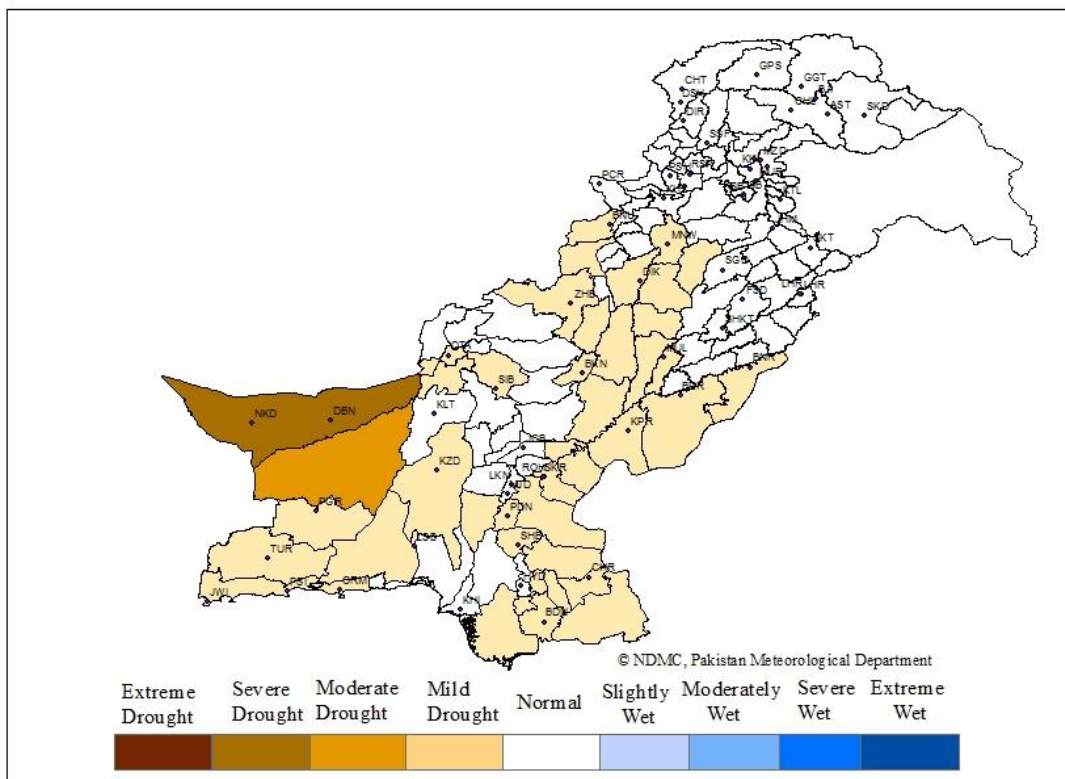


Figure 2 Drought condition of Pakistan May 2022