



No.DR-5/DRT/ADV/ALERT/2021-22

Islamabad, 27th Oct, 2025

SUBJECT: DROUGHT WATCH

Balochistan experiences an arid to semi-arid climate, characterized by highly variable rainfall, extreme temperature fluctuations, and prolonged dry spells. The southwestern and southern parts of the province are predominantly dry, receiving minimal influence from the summer monsoon. Most districts in western and southwestern Balochistan are dominated by winter rainfall, with annual precipitation ranging between 71 and 231 mm.

2. Overall, western and southwestern Balochistan have experienced below-normal rainfall (-79%) during the period from May to October 2025. In addition, the number of consecutive dry days (CDD) has increased markedly, indicating prolonged dry spells across the region. This significant rainfall deficit may contribute to the development of drought conditions in these areas. The rainfall departures and corresponding consecutive dry days for these regions are summarized as follows:

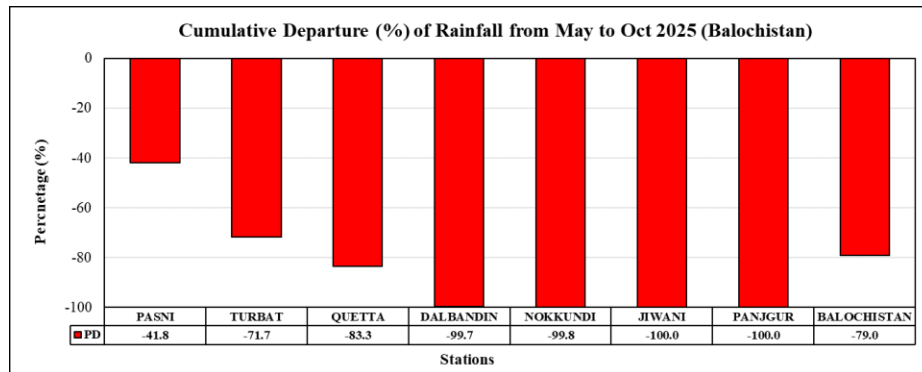


Figure-1(a) Percentage Departure (%)

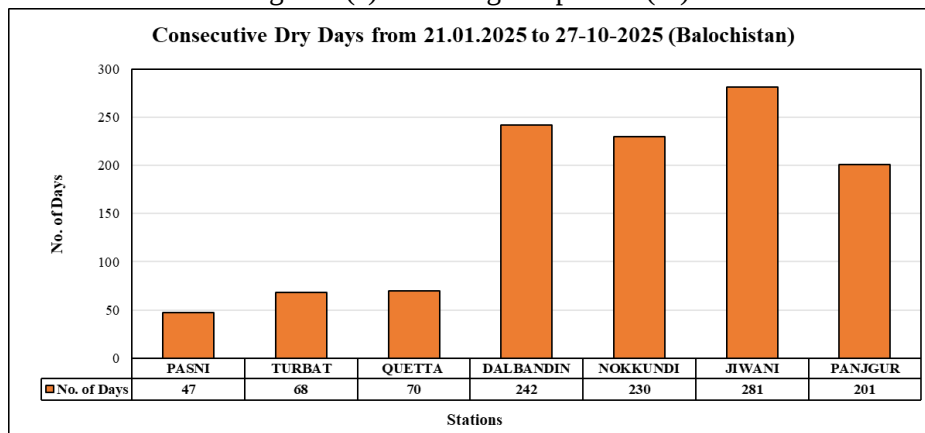


Figure-1(b) Consecutive Dry Days

3. Considering the climatological patterns and the seasonal forecast from November 2025 to January 2026 issued by the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), these regions are expected to experience below-normal rainfall accompanied by above-normal temperatures. Such conditions are likely to exacerbate drought conditions across western and southwestern Balochistan. Districts including **Chagai, Gwadar, Kech, Kharan, Mastung, Nushki, Pishin, Panjgur, Qilla Abdullah, Quetta, and Washuk** have therefore been placed under the “Drought Watch” category, as illustrated in Figure 2.

4. The prevailing dry conditions are expected to induce water stress in cultivated areas, primarily due to limited irrigation water availability for Rabi crops. All relevant stakeholders are advised to undertake pre-emptive measures in drought-prone districts to minimize potential impacts on agriculture, livestock, and livelihoods.

5. The National Drought Monitoring and Early Warning Centre (NDMC) of the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Islamabad, continues to closely monitor drought conditions across the country. Stakeholders, particularly farmers and agricultural planners, are urged to remain vigilant and stay informed through PMD’s official website (www.pmd.gov.pk) for the latest advisories and forecasts.

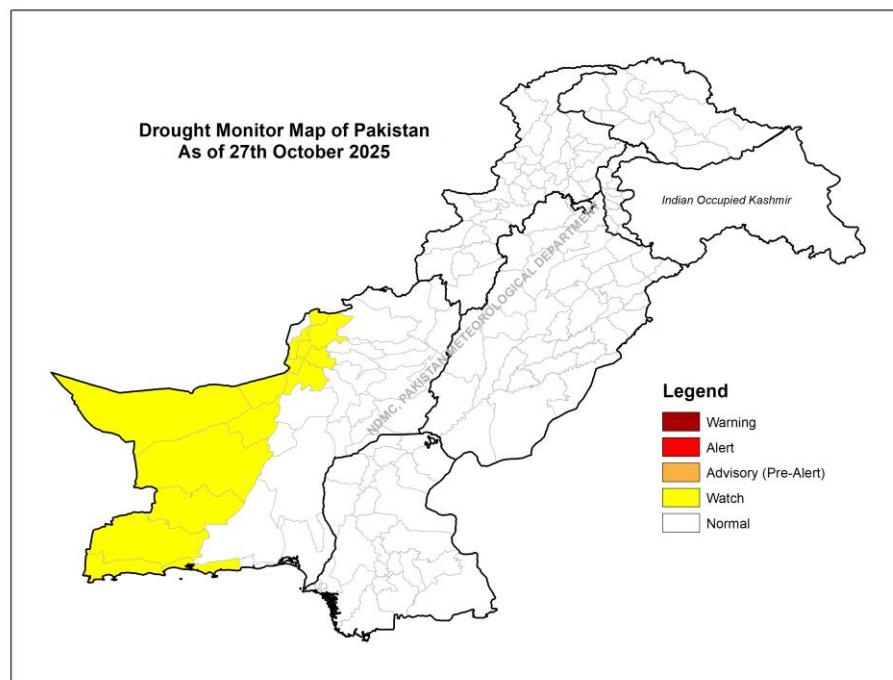


Figure-2: Drought Monitor 27th October, 2025

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.

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