

I can sum up the findings of my research by saying that deforestation due to lack of awareness among the community is the main cause of landslide and soil erosion.

## MOVING FORWARD

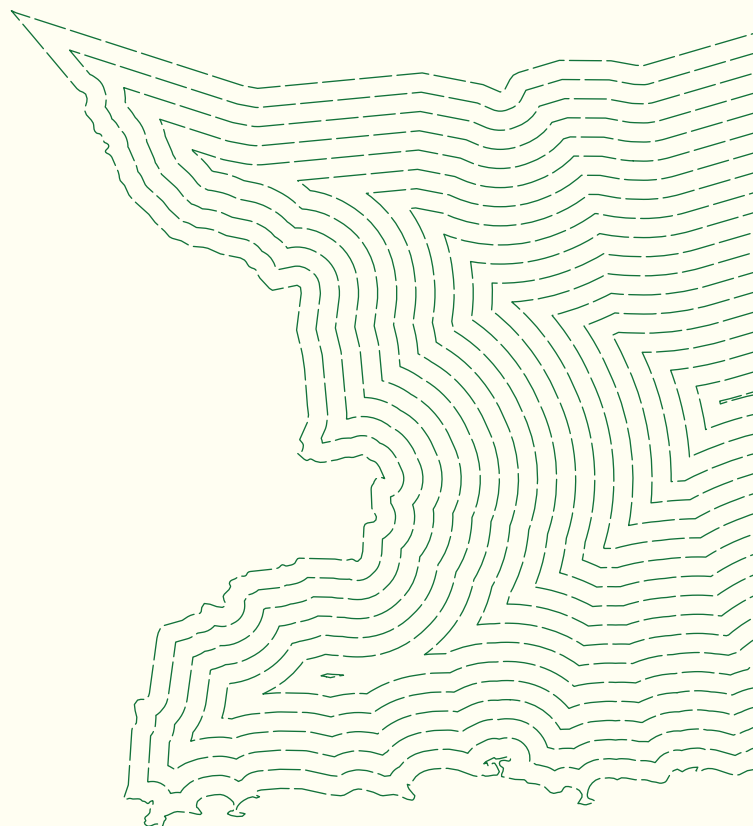
As a student that grew up in a remote area prone to disasters, I feel honored to have participated in an initiative that promotes academic research in our communities. In my opinion, there is a need to allocate more **budget for disaster management academic research and distance learning courses for students across Pakistan**. More students like me need to be trained and supported to work for the greater good of our country. Additionally, evidence-based research will support practitioners in designing contextually appropriate programs to address the disaster challenges in vulnerable areas.

*More students like me need to be trained and supported to work for the greater good of our country. ”*

The partnership of PRP with CPDM provided me with the opportunity to not only present my findings to the humanitarian community of Pakistan at a national forum, but also offered an opportunity to learn from the sector experts and gain practical knowledge from field practitioners.

Similar initiatives in the future would ensure quality research is conducted, which can be used by the disaster management authorities at the district, provincial and national levels to implement measures which can prevent calamities.

*Dinar presents his research findings at the University of Peshawar*



# Student Returns Home to Research Deforestation in Pakistan

*The Pakistan Resilience Partnership (PRP) supports disaster management students to research disaster risk reduction*



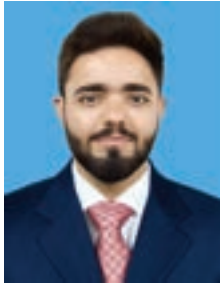
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The interviewee has explicitly given consent to have their responses recorded and the content, including photographs, published digitally or in print for APP communication purposes.



NAME | **Dinar Ahmad**

TITLE | **Master's Student,  
University of Peshawar,  
Center for Disaster  
Preparedness and  
Management**

WORKING AREA | **Chitral District, Shishi Koh  
Valley**

### CHITRAL DISTRICT



A view of Dinar's village blanketed with snow

## CONTEXT

Chitral district's unique topography makes it highly vulnerable to natural disasters throughout the year, including **flash floods, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), avalanches, and landslides**. It is home to more than 5,000 glaciers lined by more than 100 mountain peaks over 5,000 meters in the Hindu Kush mountains. The frequency of natural disasters in the area has increased drastically over the past ten years. According to a 2016 report, 20 glacial lakes have formed as a result of runoff from 182 glaciers that are rapidly melting. This poses a critical threat to human settlements and infrastructure in the form of GLOFs.



Growing deforestation in Shishi Koh Valley

Growing up in a farming family in Chitral with five brothers and sisters, I witnessed first-hand the increasing vulnerabilities in my community over the years. Growing **deforestation** due to cutting of trees by the community because of lack of awareness was also a great concern to me. Triggered by shifts in weather patterns and impacts of climate change, the mounting disaster concerns in Chitral prompted my interest to pursue disaster management studies.



Dinar Ahmad with his family

## RESEARCH IN REMOTE AREAS

PRP is currently implementing the program "Strengthening Emergency Response Capacity of Local Humanitarian Actors in Asia," which consists of stakeholders from the government, local civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, and the media. Under the program, one of the initiatives is to support academic institutions in carrying out **cutting-edge research on Disaster Management**. Thus, PRP and the Center for Disaster Preparedness and Management (CDPM) of University of Peshawar have taken steps to broaden the horizon of partnership with research.

*Without this support, research in some of the most remote areas of Pakistan would not have been possible as traveling and working in remote areas requires extensive inputs and time.*

Along with 18 other students, I was supported by PRP with an honorarium to conduct disaster management research. Without this support, research in some of the most remote areas of Pakistan would not have been possible as traveling and working in remote areas requires extensive inputs and time.

My research study was completed as part of my master's degree titled "Causes and Consequences of Deforestation in Shishi Koh Valley District Lower Chitral." I decided to focus on deforestation because most of the people in my community are unaware about the importance of forests. I saw an urgent need to ensure the community was informed about how illicit cutting of forests brings disasters in the form of flooding, soil erosion, landslide, avalanches, GLOFs, and more.



Landslides as a result of deforestation