

Pakistani Minister Says Urgent Measures Needed



<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/videos/20221006130152132/>

Pakistan has warned that it's run out of money to spend on recovery from the catastrophic floods. This has prompted the UN to call for five times more aid from the international community than it was initially seeking.

It is very much focused on the humanitarian needs, the life saving needs. We moved from an appeal of 162 million dollars to one which today is going to be launched. It's 816 million dollars.

Flooding since mid-June has impacted at least 33 million people of whom almost 8 million have been displaced. Flood waters still have not receded in the hardest hit areas while diseases like Malaria are surging and hunger is growing. The UN says the funds will help provide medical support to millions who need it. The money will also be used to build relief camps and to stockpile emergency supplies for the winter.

Pakistan's climate change minister says the time has come for countries who are on the frontlines of the climate crisis to be compensated by wealthier nations. In an exclusive interview with NHK in Islamabad, Sherry Rehman described the impact of this year's historic flooding.

It's a climate catastrophe that the world has never seen, that in living memory Pakistan has certainly never seen.

The minister said that extreme weather resulting from climate change has brought on a series of disasters to Pakistan recently.

The heatwaves that started right after winter, we had no spring, they brought with them 55 degrees

temperatures in the south, the highest amount of rain it's ever seen: 1100 millimeters in a few hours for a city. From the whole year of heatwaves, glaciers melting into big floods, naturally people are angry because they've heard this is from global warming. They don't know what has hit Pakistan.

She said Pakistan has suffered harshly although her country's contribution to green house gases is minimal. She said that countries which emit large amounts of carbon dioxide should take responsibility.

Nature is waging war on us because the rich countries waged this war on nature. And why are we facing it alone? We do feel and we do appeal to the international community that it is time to understand that climate stress and climate emergencies need to be faced very squarely in the hot spots such as my country. We are on the frontlines. We are the ground zero of this climate catastrophe.

The COP27 UN climate change conference will be held in Egypt in November. Rehman warns this could be humanities last century and that a fund needs to be created from which countries like hers can get help quickly in the battle against climate change.

Source: (NHK World News)

Now discuss the questions with a partner.

1. What do you know about the current situation in Pakistan? How often do you see it on the news?
2. Do you agree or disagree that rich nations should bear responsibility for climate crises?
3. Have you noticed any signs of climate change in Japan? Do you remember when you began to notice them?
4. Which countries do you think emit the most CO₂? How do you think Japan ranks?
5. What else do you think the international community can do to help countries affected by climate crises?