

Performance & Strategic Relevance of Directorate General Civil Defence

1. Introduction & Strategic Context

Directorate General Civil Defence (DGCD) is an attached department of the Ministry of Interior and serves as the **apex federal organization for Civil Defence planning, policy formulation, training standardization, and international coordination.**

In an era marked by **hybrid warfare, urban vulnerability, climate-induced disasters, CBRN threats, cyber risks, and complex emergencies**, Civil Defence has transformed from a **wartime contingency function** into a **permanent national resilience instrument**. DGCD plays a **preventive, preparatory, and capacity-building role**, which directly complements national defence, internal security, and disaster risk reduction frameworks.

Despite its **critical mandate**, DGCD operates with **very limited human and financial resources**, while consistently delivering nationwide impact through **policy guidance, training, standardization, and international cooperation.**

a). Functions & Roles of Directorate General Civil Defence

DGCD is the **federal custodian of Civil Defence** in Pakistan and performs the following core functions:

Policy & Planning

- Formulation of **national Civil Defence policy**
- Preparation of **Civil Defence plans for the entire country**
- Issuance of **guidelines for Civil Defence schemes of classified towns**
- Prescribing **scales, standards, and specifications** of Civil Defence services and equipment

Training & Capacity Building

- Administrative control of **10 Civil Defence Training Institutions** at provincial headquarters, AJ&K, Faisalabad, and Abbottabad
- Standardization of training arrangements nationwide
- Development of **syllabi for basic, specialized, and advanced Civil Defence courses**
- Arrangement of **specialized national and international training**

Advisory & Technical Role

- Technical advice to Ministry of Interior on:
 - Civil Defence
 - Fire safety
 - Disaster management
 - CBRN protection

- Rescue operations
- Bomb disposal

Coordination & International Engagement

- Chairman, **Implementation Group of Camouflage Sub-Committee**
 - International coordination with **International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO)**
 - Publication and updating of Civil Defence literature in line with evolving global concepts
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b). Initiatives & Reforms Undertaken (Since Last Financial Year)

Despite resource constraints, DGCD has undertaken **impact-driven reforms**, including:

- Automation and upgradation of **Air Raid Warning System (in progress)**
- Incorporation of DRR and Occupational Health and Safety course modules into the Civil Defence Curriculum
- Introduction of **Cyber Security Awareness** for the general public
- Renovation and upgradation of DGCD headquarters and training institutions
- Initiative for inclusion of **Civil Defence as a subject in the national curriculum**
- Launch of **Civil Defence Training Dashboard**
- Institutional coordination with **Pakistan Red Crescent Society**
- Development of **centralized database of underground shelters**, with inter-ministerial coordination under Ministry of Housing & Works

These initiatives reflect **modernization, digitization, and alignment with emerging threats**.

c). Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

DGCD performance is measured through the following KPIs:

- Operational readiness of **Air Raid Warning System**
 - Number and quality of **specialized Civil Defence trainings**
 - Effectiveness of **camouflage of critical civil key points**
 - Conduct of **exercises and drills** in public & private sectors
 - Level and quality of **international coordination with ICDO**
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d). As per records, no formal survey has been conducted by any organization to evaluate the performance of the Civil Defence Department. However, letters of appreciation have been received from various organizations where Civil Defence services have been rendered,

indicating satisfactory performance. Based on these acknowledgments, it can be inferred that the department's performance has been commendable and aligned with its objectives.

e). Steps Taken for Improved Service Delivery

DGCD has significantly improved service delivery through:

- Scheduled meeting of **Civil Defence Committee on Defence Planning** (March 26).
- Emergency Response Training for students in Educational Institutions in Islamabad.
- Workplace safety and emergency response training at door steps
- Online application system for Civil Defence courses
- Discontinuation of manual certificates; introduction of **digitally verifiable online certificates**
- Complete digitization of training data with **single-click access**
- Development of **HR Dashboard** with updated officer/official data
- Deployment of **mobile training teams** for outdoor and community-based training
- Civil Defence training in **schools across ICT and Pakistan**
- Active participation in ICDO events (Riyadh & Cairo)
- Advanced international training exposure (Russia) with knowledge replication locally

These steps demonstrate **cost efficiency, transparency, speed, and citizen-centric service delivery.**

