



International
Labour
Organization

ILO's Crisis Response in Pakistan: 2005-2011

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ILO Approach on Crisis Response

Decent work matters in crisis response and early recovery. Decent and stable jobs offer crisis-affected people not only income, but also freedom, security, dignity, self-esteem, hope, and a stake in the reconciliation and reconstruction of their communities.

The ILO supports disaster survivors by applying an employment-led approach to recovery. For the last 10 years, the ILO has engaged in post-disaster reconstruction in countries including China, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The ILO recovery activities include:

- assessing damages and losses on livelihoods and employment;
- establishing emergency employment services to link unemployed people with available work opportunities;
- maximizing job opportunities for local population through labour-intensive infrastructure rehabilitation; and
- providing skills and business management training to generate jobs and livelihood opportunities.

Response in Pakistan: 2005-2011

Since 2005, Pakistan is primarily enduring two kinds of crisis: natural disasters such as floods and earthquake, and a large scale IDP crisis, all causing huge losses of lives, property and employment. On every occasion the ILO responded quickly to provide technical support to the Government and People of Pakistan.

Floods 2011

- Emergency livelihoods restoration through Cash for Work programme in Badin and Mirpur Khas districts, province of Sindh.
- Livelihood damages and losses assessment (forthcoming)
- Child labour guidelines for Cash for Work (forthcoming)



August Monsoon rains inundated almost entire of Sindh Province, affected 8 million people and causing huge losses in livelihood and jobs. The ILO has initiated a rapid “Cash for Work (CfW)” intervention jointly with National Rural Support Program (NRSP). The key feature of this program will be:

- **24,400 person day of Cash for Work (CfW)**
- **60,000 families will benefit**
- **CfW will observe International Labour Standards**

This intervention through labour intensive work will urgently restore healthcare facilities and water reservoir, clean access pathways/roads and houses, and construct pit latrines. All employment generated under CfW will observe International Labour Standards including those on child and forced labour, and discrimination in employment opportunities. The ILO is in process of conducting assessments on livelihood and job losses caused by the floods.

The ILO, jointly with UNICEF, is currently developing guidelines to ensure that CfW interventions implemented by other agencies are sensitive to child labour concerns including its worst forms.



Floods 2010

- Cash for Work programme in Nowshera, Peshawar, Muzaffargarh, Sukkur, Kashmore and Shikarpur
- Livelihood damages and losses assessment

July Monsoon rains, including multiple cloud burst on Northern Mountains, caused the tidal wave directly affected 20 million people and one fifth of Pakistan's land mass. ILO estimated that floods caused 5.3 million livelihood and jobs losses across Pakistan. Moreover, The ILO responded swiftly and following were the key features:

- **CfW programme implemented in three provinces – total of six districts**
- **Offered 70,000 person days of Cash for Work (CfW)**
- **CfW observed International Labour Standards.**
- **Private Sector adopted ILO approach on CfW & built 400 houses**

These interventions were made jointly with the Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP), Pakistan Workers Federation (PWF), Pakistan National Textile Leather Garments and General Workers Federation (PNTLGGWF) and civil society organizations. The CfW partnership with the EFP resulted in the private sector adopting the CfW approach for its relief work. For instance, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chamber of Commerce & Industry took the ILO CfW approach and rehabilitated 400 floods affected houses and generated local employment opportunities.

Balochistan Earthquake 2008

- Cash for Work Programme

In October, a series of earthquakes struck Balochistan, caused widespread damage to houses in the rural areas and displaced 70,000 individuals. The ILO launched CfW programme jointly with Taraqee Foundation (NGO). Under this project, more than 4,000 person work days were generated. This included clearing of debris, clearing of access roads, camp management, child friendly spaces, collective washing and cooking.

Earthquake 2005

- Cash for Work programme (debris clearance, infrastructure rehabilitation)
- Community-based Livelihood Recovery Project

- Child Protection programme to prevent children from entering into hazardous work

In October, a major earthquake hit North East Pakistan, killing more than 87,000, injuring 75,000, and affecting 3.5 million people. The ILO estimated that earthquake caused 1.1 million jobs and livelihoods losses.

In order to create job opportunities for the disaster affected people, the ILO implemented a three-pronged rapid recovery programme, Rapid Income Support through Employment (RISE), consisting of three components i.e. CfW, emergency employment services and short-cycled skills training. Subsequently, ILO also initiated Community-based Livelihood Recovery Project. The key achievements of these ILO responses were:

- **CfW offered in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa province and Azad Jammu and Kashmir**
- **65,000 person day of employment generated in compliance with International Labour Standards**
- **18,000 men and women were trained in different skills and infused in the local market**
- **Rehabilitated about 100 kilometers of roads**
- **Established emergency employment services for 15,000 people**
- **Developed a skills training strategy for Azad Jammu and Kashmir**

Along with the employment creation efforts, the ILO implemented Pakistan Earthquake Child Labour Response Project (PECLR) to prevent children entering into labour and rehabilitate child labourers. Under the project, close to 4,000 boys and girls were prevented from entering into labour or withdrawn/rehabilitated from labour including its hazardous forms. The project also developed recommendations for the Government of Pakistan's Crisis and Disaster Response Policy.

For further information, please contact:

Francesco d'Ovidio
Country Director
ILO Country Office for Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 2276456-8
Email: dovidio@ilo.org
www.ilo.org/islamabad