

Pakistan Trade Union active involvement in  
disaster preparedness and minimization of risks for  
workers

By

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**Potential of Social Protection to Build**  
**Resilience to Disasters**

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# Presentation Contents

- Unions: disaster management and risk minimization activities
- Description of union activities
- Union participation
  - glimpses of PWF work
- Conclusions and way forward
- Annex A & B
  - Extent of damages caused by earthquake & floods
  - Social protection institutions



## Unions: Disaster Preparedness and Risk Minimization

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- Damage and needs assessments
- Disaster relief
- Cash for work
- Support to persons with disabilities



# Description of Union Activities - 1

- Damage and needs assessment, besides immediate visits feedback from
  - affiliated unions/members from the affected areas
  - 8 Regional executive boards of PWF
  - Provincial chapters of WEBCOP
- Priority areas of work
  - Worst affected areas & union and/or member presence
  - Survey, if needed, of persons needing assistance
  - Program (s) development
  - Seeking support for program (s), and dialogue & lobby
  - Program (s) launch
    - with support of ILO, ITUC-AP (earlier ICFTU-APRO) and others
    - Union-members supported

# Unions Participation - 1

- Immediate need: cash, work, debris removal
  - Initially with support of ICFTU-APRO later ILO & others



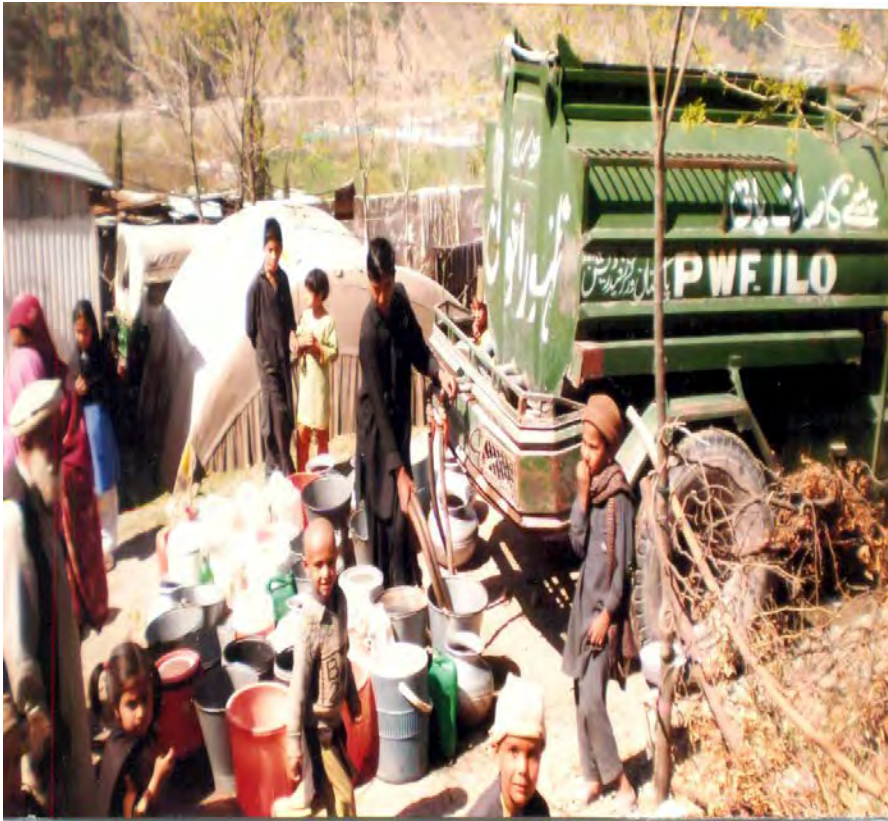
## Unions participation - 2

- Immediate need: shelter & schooling for children
  - Tents with ICFTU-APRO & own arrangements for school

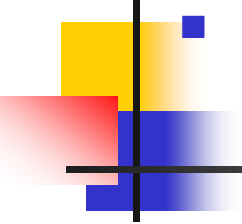


## Unions participation - 3

- Immediate need: water supply
  - ILO & others support

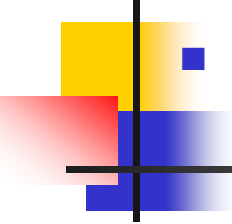


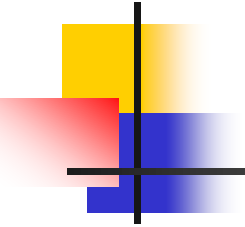
# Unions Participation - 4

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- Outreaching persons with disabilities
    - PWF survey of the most affected District
      - Details of persons with disabilities documented
    - A monthly stipend, equivalent to Benazir income support program, launched with own contribution/donations – still being continued
  - Lobby and dialogue
    - Tourism a major source of livelihood
      - Organised seminar (s) with ILO, inviting ministers & govt officials ----focus livelihoods
      - Engaged with concerned govt. officials, ministries for tourism support together with civil society
      - Joined civil society lobby group
    - Part of such activities - WEBCOP
      - Unions imp. member of workers employers bilateral council of Pakistan (WEBCOP)



# In Conclusion

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- With limited resources, TUs demonstrate disaster preparedness & mitigation and risk minimization
    - Being on the governing bodies of workers' related social protection institutions; unions, to an extent, influence programs outreaching the vulnerable & victims
  - Good relations with employers federation of Pak (EFP) & esp. being part of WEBCOP
    - Contribute in effective lobby & policy dialogue
  - **Our livelihoods & decent work remain vulnerable to natural disasters. Capacities developed & institutions established need strengthening & greater cooperation. Disasters related org. need to effective integration with SP institutions to ensure resilience to relief & disaster management. UNION with a reach across the country is a natural partner/facilitator.**



**Thank You**

# Annex A: Natural Disasters and Extent of Damages in 2005, 2010 and 2014

## 3 weeks after 2005 earthquake

- 73,000 dead
- 128,000 injured; many severely and even disabled
- 3.5mn made homeless
- 2.3mn without adequate food
- 1mn+ lost employment
- 80% of crops and 50% of arable land destroyed
- 100,000+ cattle killed
- Foundation of economic activities destroyed

## 2010 floods - worst in history

- 20mn people affected in over 100,000 sq. km,
- 1.67mn. houses destroyed/damaged
- 2.2 mn. hectares of standing crops destroyed.

## 2014 floods

- Over 2.5 mn people affected
- Over 4,000 villages flooded
- Over 100,000 homes damaged
- Over 2.4 mn acres of crops lost
- 9,000 cattle perished
- Widespread damage to property and infrastructure.

## Annex B: Types of Social Protection Programs by Category

### Social Security

- Employees old age benefit institution (EOBI)
  - Health care & maternity benefits for workers
  - Workers' welfare schemes
- [all 3 have workers' representatives in governing bodies...influences **some** programs benefiting & providing support to victims]
- Pension, gratuity & insurance for govt. employees

### Social assistance

- **Many** but those also dealing

....with relief & rehabilitation

- Benazir income support prog \$ 0.90 billion, 4.7 mn. registered beneficiaries., country wide  
*[extends support to victims]*
- Needs based disaster relief & assistance including compensation

### Labor market programs

- Direct emp. generation through public works & loan based,
- Technical vocational education and training (TVET), and
- Employment services