

ILO IFP/CRISIS HIGHLIGHTS

CRISIS RESPONSE IN AFRICA, AT A GLANCE

1ST JUNE 2004



This is a special issue of our CRISIS RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS newsletter, produced on the occasion of the International Labour Organization's Conference. We offer below a glimpse of ILO's activities in this crucial area of work encompassing the design and implementation of critical survival programmes. In Africa, a continent faced with a multiplicity of recurrent armed conflicts and other crises, IFP/CRISIS supports the ILO Regional, Sub-Regional and other Offices to tackle the decent work challenges accompanying the devastating disasters of our times. IFP/CRISIS is primarily devoted to promoting livelihoods and reducing vulnerability of the most crisis-affected populations and communities. Empowering and offering them tools to live up to their potential and promoting local recovery and peace building processes are parts of our mission and objective.

The following are some basic facts and figures on our work in Africa with concrete examples of country operations, knowledge and tools development, partnerships, capacity building, advocacy and resource mobilization activities.

IFP/CRISIS BASIC FIGURES FOR AFRICA	
• NUMBER OF COUNTRY OPERATIONS	20
• FUNDS MOBILIZED	8.6 millions US\$
• EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS	36
• INTERNAL PARTNERS	30
• TOOLS DEVELOPED	13
• BOOKS / WORKING PAPERS	45
• CAPACITY BUILDING EVENTS	6



INFOCUS PROGRAMME ON CRISIS RESPONSE AND RECONSTRUCTION

The InFocus Programme on Crisis Response and Reconstruction (IFP/CRISIS) was set up within the ILO's Recovery and Reconstruction Department in 1999, in recognition of the fact that, in many countries, crises due to war, natural disasters, economic collapse or abrupt political change have become part of everyday life, with adverse consequences for employment and economic development. This clearly poses serious threats to decent work and other goals of the ILO. A main objective of IFP/CRISIS is to assist the ILO's constituents in becoming better equipped to cope with such situations in a comprehensive, timely and effective manner. This can be achieved, inter alia, through improved design and implementation of programmes for the promotion of employment opportunities, as well as by pursuing the objectives of social dialogue, social protection and fundamental rights and principles at work, supplemented with other measures corresponding to local needs. Realizing that women are very often more heavily affected by crisis situations than men, IFP/CRISIS pays special attention to the complex gender concerns involved. The intricate links between relief, recovery, reconstruction and development are also subject to special attention.

Research on different aspects of crisis is being undertaken, and a range of relevant tools and operational guides has been developed to assist in the rapid response to crisis. Capacity is being built up within the ILO and outside, and ongoing advocacy and resource mobilization efforts are being made.

Some IFP/CRISIS country interventions

Crisis Response Operations in Mozambique

In the past three years Mozambique has suffered from the most severe floods on record and added to this has been a cycle of drought and cyclones which has resulted in food shortages and other serious difficulties for the rural population. The Mozambique floods of 2000 wiped away many livelihoods and hopes. They affected 4.5 million persons; killing over 700, thrusting in need some 760,000 and over 530,000 in emergency, destroying 273 million dollars of assets and 300,000 jobs. This tragedy hit hard the Chókwé community, already suffering from serious unemployment and poverty.

IFP/CRISIS mobilized 150,000 dollars from its Rapid Action Fund to respond and implemented a "Rapid Employment Impact Project" (REIP) which pulled out the most vulnerable from the grips of major recurrent floods in Mozambique's Chókwé district.

Project activities included rehabilitation of four informal local markets and district labour offices, creation of a micro vocational training centre, training in sustainable local development and elaboration of local projects, small business management, the use and maintenance of motor-pumps and making and repairing of agricultural tools and assistance in small livestock breeding.

The project reached, in less than a year, some 1,400 beneficiaries. About 87% were women (as most Chókwé men worked in South Africa); thus also giving women the opportunity to take on new activities and roles, including participation in decision-making and the formulation and evaluation of local projects.

Somalia

Somalia is faced with the immense challenge of achieving peace and stability and beginning the process of reconstruction.

ILO IFP/CRISIS is supporting the peace building process with a well tested approach involving: an employment intensive job creation component which provides direct and temporary employment to a large number of unskilled workers; and a local economic development component that includes the establishment of a participatory, local economic forum. Labour based methods are applied consistently and employment intensive civil works have started in Mogadishu and many districts of Central Somalia. In Mogadishu, 600 people are currently employed, 70% of whom are women. Important rehabilitation works are ongoing throughout the country including Puntland and Somaliland. Employment intensive infrastructure projects are going to be implanted in many urban and rural districts. In Hargeisa, the ILO project for the construction of a surface water drainage scheme has already created over 4,500 working days of employment and acted as a starting point for a sustainable water management system.

Sudan

In November 2002, the ILO participated in an inter-agency mission to assist the United Nations Country Team in the development of a coherent strategy to address the special needs of internally displaced people. Proposals were presented for the rehabilitation and development of vocational training centers in West Kordofan and labour-based reconstruction of roads and bridges. It is expected that the ILO will become involved in many of the proposed activities as soon as a comprehensive peace plan, under negotiations, will be concluded.

Algeria

Following the earthquake that struck Algeria in May 2003, causing the loss of up to 16,000 jobs and a five billion dollars damage to the infrastructure, the ILO has conducted a multi-disciplinary assessment mission. It recommended starting the reconstruction process by, for example, promoting job creation and reducing the socio-economic vulnerability of the most affected population.

The ILO response strategy now concentrates on two pilot projects directed at supporting the rehabilitation of the small and micro enterprise sector and the reconstruction of dwellings for the most vulnerable, applying anti-seismic techniques while stimulating the local economy.

Youth employment in Cote d'Ivoire

The focus of our Crisis response programme is on gender sensitive youth employment promotion. Crisis response must target youth on several levels, as potential destabilizing elements and as potential contributors to reconstruction and sustainable prosperity. In Cote d'Ivoire, programme activities included local economic development through skills and small business development for the promotion of jobs among youth. Local microfinance institutions will be reinforced and local markets will be reactivated with the injection of new financial resources. Moreover, owing to the breakdown of local public health infrastructure, the HIV/AIDS information and prevention programme will be strengthened and implemented in local war torn communities.

ILO Convention No.182. *Forced Recruitment of boys and girls under 18 for use in armed conflict is one of the worst forms of child labour and must be prohibited and eliminated*

The ILO goes beyond trying to stop children from carrying arms. It seeks to promote their development by providing adequate educational and training alternatives for children and, when appropriate, access to decent work, and income security for their parents. Ending child-soldiering is a goal in itself; but it is also a powerful way of promoting economic and human development.

The ILO InFocus Programme on Crisis Response and Reconstruction (IFP/CRISIS) and International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) collaborate closely on this issue. ILO work on the reintegration of child soldiers concentrates on two complementary axes:

- Appealing and viable alternatives for 14-18-year old soldiers relinquishing their arms;
- Income generating support to receiving families and communities.

Assistance includes vocational training, on-the-job-training, apprenticeships, short-term employment, labour-intensive construction works, business start-up and micro-finance programmes. It usually starts with an identification of the economic sectors that can absorb young former soldiers.

Reintegration of Demobilized Soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo

In November 1999, the "preparatory phase for a reintegration programme for demobilized soldiers in DRC" was launched with a grant of \$700,000 dollars from the World Bank. ILO Kinshasa assumed responsibility for its management and implementation, while IFP/CRISIS offered its technical backstopping.

The preparatory phase focused on the demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers and other vulnerable groups. It included studies on the social and economic profile of ex combatants and child soldiers; health aspects including drug misuse and HIV; social and economic reintegration and the management systems needed for such a programme. It also incorporated capacity building of national stakeholders, advocacy, awareness raising and information dissemination, and pilot interventions to support the social and economic reintegration of vulnerable ex-combatants. The programme recently came to an end. It has been positively evaluated and the lessons learned were used to formulate the multi-country demobilization and reintegration programme (MDRP) in which ILO plays an active role.

Knowledge and tools development/dissemination

Over **45 publications and working documents** have been prepared and widely distributed, to make IFP/CRISIS analytical work, operational experience and lessons readily available to crisis practitioners and researchers.



A recent published volume, ***Jobs After War: A critical challenge in the peace and reconstruction puzzle***, illustrates the centrality of jobs for reintegrating conflict-affected groups, reconstruction, peace building and human security, includes several country studies and chapters on Africa.

Some **13 manuals** have also been developed, widely disseminated, and are used regularly. They provide step-by-step guidance in various technical areas relevant to crisis, like vocational training, emergency employment services, cooperatives, labour-based infrastructure rebuilding and local economic development; as well as in modes of intervention, such as Rapid Needs Assessment and coordination in crisis response and reconstruction; and in how to tackle the needs of women and other gender concerns, ex-combatants, youth and other groups deserving special attention. As these tools are first prepared in English, work is underway to make them available in French and Arabic so as to widen their utilization.

A **Factsheet package on *Decent work matters in crisis; ILO response to crisis challenge***, presents the ILO approach to crisis response (Knowledge development/dissemination, building crisis response capacity; advocacy for employment-friendly crisis response, strategic partnerships).

Capacity-building

IFP/CRISIS capacity-building has concentrated on Africa, with 6 training events thus far:

- A **sub-regional workshop centred on Central Africa, in Kribi (Cameroon, 22-26 April 2001)**, to strengthen ILO officials from field offices or working on ILO projects in that area in crisis-response skills, particularly for conflict-affected countries; and to define modalities of collaboration in the design, planning and implementation of an ILO coherent response to crises.
- A **tripartite workshop on Southern Africa, in Harare (Zimbabwe, 27-28 February 2003)** to develop a sub-regional strategy as response to the severe drought that was affecting wide areas of Lesotho, Mali, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, causing considerable job losses and destitution. While focusing on employment-related initiatives, this opportunity was seized to reinforce social partners so they could contribute meaningfully to the recovery strategy.
- A **national workshop in Conakry (Guinea, 22-24 May 2003)**, highlighting the role of Trade Unions in the prevention and management of conflict in Africa and identifying avenues to strengthen this role; which gathered representatives of workers' organizations, ministries and other governmental institutions, civil society, HCR and other international agencies.
- A **sub-regional workshop on West Africa, in Dakar (Senegal, 1-3 September 2003)**, for officials from the ILO Dakar and Abidjan sub-regional offices and staff working on ILO projects in that area. This event, set within the Programme on reintegration of ex-combatants in Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone, developed crisis-response capacities, particularly related to armed conflicts, including how to ensure tight collaboration among ILO structures and coordination with other relevant agencies.
- A **national workshop in Maputo (Mozambique, 7-9 October 2003)** on crisis preparedness and response to natural disasters and other crises in Mozambique, gathering the three ILO social partners, representatives of key relevant international agencies – FAO, INGC, UNDP, UNOCHA, EWFP – and ILO staff. Participants also developed a plan of action for collaboration (within the national framework for disaster prevention and management), focusing on early warning information through the FIVIMS framework and the Mozambique National Disaster Management Institute.
- A **regional workshop in Accra (Ghana, 20-24 October 2003)** to plan a technical assistance programme to the build capacity of Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) and its affiliate members in early warning/prevention, resolution, peace building and post-conflict reconstruction, and the coverage of employment, social dialogue and other ILO concerns in conflict response at different levels in Africa.

IFP/CRISIS RESOURCES MOBILISED for AFRICA 1999 - 2003						S T A T U S	
COUNTRY	PROJECT	SOURCE of FUNDS (US\$)					
		EXTERNAL DONORS	Crisis RAF*	ILO FUNDS**			
AFRICA							
Algeria 2003-04	Post earthquake Emp.Recov. and socio-econ. Vulnerab.reduction	25'000	France	30'000	120'000	O	
		50'000	GTZ				
DRC 2001-03	Preparatory assistance for reintegr. of war affected groups	700'000	WB			C	
		500'000	WB			C	
Ethiopia 2001	Livelihoods restoration in draught affected areas			50'000		C	
Gr.Gr.Lakes	Socio-econ. Recon. and LED for ex combat. in war affected areas				300'000	O	
Guinea Bissau	Reinsertion of excombatants				150'000	O	
Mozambique	Empl. Recov. and reduc.of socio-econ. Vulnerab. in Chockwe			150'000		C	
Sierra Leone 2001-04	Promotion of Empl. Centres for reintegration of war affected youths			150'000		C	
	Reinsertion of ex combatants			25'000		C	
Somalia 2001-2004	Labour Based rehab.programs and LED for Econ.Recov. And consolidation of peace building process	1'400'000	ITALY			C	
		800'000	ITALY			A	
					208'000		O
		80'000	DANIDA				E
		3'500'000	EC			E	
Southern Africa	Employment generation and vulnerability reduction				350'000	O	
Sub-TOTAL		6'980'000		405'000	1'278'000		
Total				8'663'000			