

ILO IFP/CRISIS HIGHLIGHTS 2003

CRISIS RESPONSE IN ASIA-PACIFIC, ...FOUR YEARS RESULTS AT A GLANCE...



This issue of the CRISIS RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS newsletter has been produced to coincide with the ILO Regional Internship Course on Labour and Social Policies for the Promotion of Decent Work in Bangkok Dec. 2003. We offer below a glimpse of ILO's activities in this crucial area of work encompassing the design and implementation of critical survival programmes. *The Asia Pacific Region is among the most disaster prone areas of the world* and between 1993 and 1997 natural disasters affected some 128 million people and resulted in the deaths of some 40,000 and made homeless 4.5 millions. Additionally the region is faced with the consequences of ongoing 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 capacity building and special ILO 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 the Asia-Pacific region with concrete examples of country operations, knowledge and tools development, partnerships, and resource mobilization activities. In the Asia Pacific region, ASIST-AP is a key partner in the delivery of ILO crisis response programmes; especially in Afghanistan, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste and Sri Lanka, however not all ILO crisis response work involves labour-based infrastructure works.

IFP/CRISIS BASIC FIGURES FOR A-P Region

• COUNTRY OPERATIONS	6
• DIRECT FUNDS MOBILIZED	6.6 millions USD
• PARTNER FUNDS MOBILIZED	4.2 millions USD
• EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS	7
• INTERNAL PARTNERS	25
• TOOLS DEVELOPED	13
• BOOKS / WORKING PAPERS	45
• CAPACITY BUILDING EVENTS	On-Job only



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. Invariably, crises are **complex** in their nature. 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 and tools corresponding to local needs. With the limited resources available within IFP/CRISIS, Capacity Building in the field is recognised as key to the ILO being more effective in Crisis preparedness and response. To this end there will be a *series of capacity-building Workshops in Asia during 2004*. The intricate links between relief, recovery, reconstruction and development and the cross cutting issue of gender are also subject to special attention. Research on different aspects of crisis continues, and a range of important and relevant tools and operational guides has been developed to assist in the rapid response to crisis.

Some IFP/CRISIS country interventions

Crisis Response Operations

Afghanistan

The ILO decision to allocate significant start-up resources to Afghanistan and to appoint a full time Country Coordinator very experienced in post-conflict country programmes is producing major dividends. *Afghanistan is now the “flagship” ILO Crisis Response programme in the region* and builds on the wide ILO experience in recent years in Asia, particularly in Cambodia.

- Following on from the initial *Quick Impact Projects* (QIPs) established in late 2001, there have now been major developments with donor support for an integrated framework of core ILO employment related programmes. The most recent is the invitation of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan (TISA) to sole source the ILO for its Technical Assistance for the *National Emergency Employment Programme* (NEEP) Rural Access component, which mainstreams the use of *labour-based technology* in the construction sector. This agreement also involving a partnership with UNOPS comprises 3 packages totalling USD 5million. It is the first phase of the USD 200 million NEEP funded by the World Bank through the TISA. The ILO will have the responsibility of ensuring professional technical standards and contract arrangements for these public works to be undertaken using labour based technology, an area of expertise for which the *ILO is a world leader*. Additional projects in the field of labour-based planning and technology, but focusing more on institutional development have been developed for Swedish SIDA and Japanese funding.
- In the field of *Vocational Training for Employment*, the ILO and the Japanese have entered into advanced negotiations for the Japanese funding of the ESDWA. The budget for the project is USD 6.5M and will involve a partnership with UNHCR and indirect support to the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) program for ex-combatants.
- In the area of *Employment Service Centres* and *Labour Market Information*, the ILO is assisting the Department of Manpower in the MoLSA in Kabul to establish an ESC. AGEF (Germany) is the Implementing Partner for the ESC and a project document for the expansion of the ESC to six new provinces has also been prepared and submitted to BMZ.
- The *re-entry of Women into the Labour Market* (RWLM) has been a particularly important challenge for the ILO and a pilot project is providing assistance to women involved in the carpet weaving industry. This project is being redesigned to take a more holistic approach to the needs of women by supporting a Women's Empowerment Center. The NGO - Afghan Center will be the implementing partner to the ILO.
- In the field of *Local Economic Development and Self Reliance*, the ILO has a programme of Technical Assistance to Small Scale Enterprise Development and Business Development Services (SEDBDS). The ILO CTA is working in Kabul in support of the MoLSA's program of small scale enterprise development and business development skills and providing support to a number of Government and ILO enterprise projects.
- A pilot *Micro-Finance for Employment Project* (MFEP) has been launched with the ILO adviser focusing on building capacity among five NGOs that are providing micro-finance. The five NGOs have been identified.
- ITC-ILO (Turin) have USD1 million Italian funding for their project on *Promoting Women's Entrepreneurship* (PWE). The project is based in the MoLSA and the MoWA is the second counterpart Ministry. The Afghan Women's Business Council, the Afghan Center, and the Ministry of Commerce's Department of Enterprise are important partners.
- The ILO also has important projects planned for the *Strengthening the work of the Workers and Employers' Organisations*, in addition to the current strengthening work being undertaken at MOLSA. New project preparation is underway with UNOPS for assisting in the employment of persons with disabilities.

Solomon Islands

Ex-combatants are gradually re-entering civilian life thanks partly to the Community Infrastructure Rehabilitation Programme (CIRP) which aims at peace building through short term employment creation for conflict affected populations in the provinces of Guadalcanal, Western and Malaita of the Solomon Islands. A large number of unskilled workers will be involved in the *rehabilitation of roads and bridges and the rehabilitation of parks and gardens, using labour-based technology*, improving access to village markets and providing a much needed boost to agricultural and fisheries production. The USD1 million project, funded by Japan and implemented jointly by UNDP and ILO, is now in its initial phase and it will provide direct employment to some 2000 former combatants. This past August works commenced in Tina Village with the employment of 230 workers.

Timor Leste

Unemployment continues to be one of the major concerns in Timor Leste and weak national capacity particularly that of the Secretariat of State for Labour and Solidarity (SSLS), to respond to this concern is a major constraint. In response to these, the ILO has been and is currently implementing *five separate TC projects/activities* in the country, one of which is the recently completed *Employment and Vocational Training Project* (TIM/00/M01/POR). An Employment and Vocational Training Fund (EVTF), established under the auspices of this Project, has proved to be a useful mechanism in channelling funds for skill training and employment creation. The Cash Surplus (CS) Programme will (i) *strengthen the capacity of SLSS* in project management, monitoring and follow-up support services to the EVTF (ii) strengthen capacity of the DVTE and *District Employment Centres (DECs)* to train & identify employment and income generating opportunities, (iii) introduce an *integrated rural accessibility planning, LBES and development of small-scale contractors*, including the concepts of community contracting; (iv) *promote social dialogue* and awareness about worker rights, gender equality, non-discrimination, national labour laws and ILS through education, training, meetings and campaigning.

In a recent parallel development, ILO and UNDP have designed and developed a five-year programme called *Skill Training for Gainful Employment* (or STAGE in short) in close consultation with the SSLS. The European Commission (EC) has expressed strong interest in the STAGE programme and is expected to provide nearly USD 5 million to STAGE and UNDP has allocated a bridge funding of USD200,000 to kick start the STAGE project.

Mindanao - The Philippines

The ILO has had several projects in Mindanao over recent years and largely in the area of Vocational Skills and enterprise development for MNLF soldiers. Currently the US Department of Labor is funding a USD1.5 million project *Expanding Economic Opportunity and Income Security through Workforce education, Skills Training, Employment Creation, and Local Economic Development*. This project is supported by the Manila SRO and IFP/Skills. Training of trainers work is completed however there are project delays due to an unstable peace and law and order situation. Fighting between various factions continues sporadically.

Reintegration of Demobilized Soldiers in Sri Lanka

With a return to peace, one of the biggest concerns will be the *reintegration of ex-combatants into civilian life*. Many of the people currently in the armed forces joined to lift their families out of poverty. The government and the LTTE will not be able to maintain these large numbers of armed personnel in the future. Already there are significant numbers of ex-combatants in the civilian communities; in 2003 the number of army personnel that complete their contract reaches 9,439. In addition, over 50,000 personnel have left as deserters over the past ten years, some of whom have subsequently returned to the military. Though exact figures are not available on the number of persons who have deserted from the LTTE, they are also thought to be quite significant as is the increase of violence and criminality by those who could not find employment.

Successful demobilisation and reintegration will only occur if alternate *acceptable employment opportunities are created for the (ex)-combatants*. The ILO has prepared a strategy and a phased project document with the objective of contributing to peace building through the socio-economic reintegration of 150,000 ex-combatants in Sri Lanka.

The immediate objectives are: (i) To assist partners *to provide reintegration services* that will facilitate the transition from military to civilian life for ex-combatants who have already left the government/non-government forces or will do so over the next two years. (ii) To improve and expand the quality and scope of reintegration services in *job-placement, vocational counselling, adult training, local labour market assessments and psychosocial assistance* for future DDR challenges; (iii) To *strengthen the national capacity* to design, implement, monitor and evaluate Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) processes and to facilitate their coordination.

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 **Fact-sheet 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).

Resources Mobilised for Asia Pacific in cooperation with the Region

ASIA						
Afghanistan 2002-03	Quick impact project			150'000		C
	TA for formulation of National Emergency Empl. Program				260'000	O
	TA to National Emergency Empl. program on Rural Access	1'725'339	WB ***			A
	Preparation of TA for Empl. skills development project	48'000	UNHCR			A
	Employment Service Centre pilot project				61'000	O
	Employment Service Centre, phase 1	1'030'000	Germany			A
	Womens' Empowerment centre				57'000	O
	Enterprise development				239'000	O
	Microfinance employment project				235'000	O
	Women entrepreneurship development project	1'000'000	ITALY			A
	TA to MOLSA				144'000	A
	TA to Workers				36'000	A
	TA to Employers				36'000	A
East Timor 2002	Integrated Employment Generation Programme	118'000	UNDP (SFPD)			C
	Employability Project	500'000	Portugal			O
India	Soc.-econ.reconstruc. in 10 villages of Kutch district, Gujarat			50'000		C
Nepal	Formulation mission Empl. Enhancement in conflict affected areas			10'000	50'000	E
Solomon Islands 2001-03	Preparation and TA for employment proposals	60'000	UNDP	60'000		O
	Island industry Rehab Task Force	20'000	UNDP		120'000	O
	Labour Based rehab infrastructure project	100'000	UNDP/JAPAN ****			O
Sri Lanka 2002-03	Rehabilitation of child soldiers of Northern and Eastern provinces	200'000	AusAID			O
	Rapid Need assessment of the post conflict situation			30'000		C
	Infrastructure rehabilitation strategies and training				140'000	O

Legend:

E = Earmarked A = Approved O = Ongoing C = Completed

*** additional USD3,300,000 direct partnership with UNOPS.

**** additional 900,000 direct partnership with UNDP for capital Investment from HSTF Japan

Beige Column: Crisis RAF Funds

Yellow Column: Donor Funds

Green Column: ILO RB Funds