



## *E – NEWS UPDATE*

*December 2005*

### **Season's Greetings from the ASIST team**



As we come to the end of another eventful and busy year we take this opportunity to convey season's greetings to all our partners and their families, and look forward to the continuation of our relationships in 2006.

2005 has been a very busy and challenging year. We have continued to support ongoing initiatives with existing long term partners (16 countries this year). In addition, we have successfully responded to new demands and challenges from the less stable environments such as Angola, Somalia and Sudan. New partnerships with a number of institutions have been established to enhance our respective capacities, promote new technology such as low volume sealed roads, enhance access to our knowledge base and increase the sectoral scope of our work in areas such as environmental rehabilitation. In response to the increasing acceptance of employment as a condition for a stable society we have developed partnerships with research institutes in the areas of conflict resolution, peace building and disarmament.

On a regional level our cooperation with bodies and initiatives such as NEPAD and the AU has continued. We view closer cooperation with them as a priority for 2006.

In October the 11<sup>th</sup> Regional Seminar for Labour-based Practitioners was held in Mombasa, Kenya with an attendance of over 250 delegates from Africa and Asia. Preparations are already underway for the 12<sup>th</sup> Seminar to be held in South Africa in 2007.

Internally, we have been working closer with the ILO Area Offices in the region and other ILO programmes, providing support to the Decent Work Country Programmes, National Development Plans and Poverty Reduction Strategies. With the increasing demand for our inputs in Eastern Africa we are likely to build up the capacity of our Nairobi Office in 2006.

So 2005 was a busy year and it appears as if 2006 will be even busier! Poverty and unemployment are still with us. Political pronouncements and commitments have been made<sup>1</sup> in relation to employment creation and investment in infrastructure for greater impact on poverty reduction. ASIST is increasingly being called upon to continue to influence policy, develop tools and national capacities so that these commitments can be realized.

### **Brief update on some recent country activities**

#### **Angola**

Angola is in a transition phase from repatriation and settlement of previously displaced people (internally and externally) to national development, following the consolidation of the post civil-war peace process. ASIST has fielded missions with a view to initiating employment intensive methods in the delivery of infrastructure and small medium enterprise development in order to contribute to sustainable peace stability and poverty reduction through economic development with equity. ASIST, in collaboration with other ILO units, recently carried out a study to assess the national vocational training strategy and recommend technical, financial, institutional and policy measures to match the needs of the labour market. The reports will be available in due course.

<sup>1</sup> i. Declaration of the African Union Ministers responsible for transport. Addis Ababa, April 2005.

ii. Our Common Interest – Report of the Commission for Africa, March 2005.

iii. Declaration of the African Union Heads of State's Extraordinary Summit for Employment and Poverty alleviation, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, September 2004.

## Namibia

Namibia has produced a Draft Bill for the establishment of an Employment Creation body in a public-private sector partnership. The body has evolved from the Labour-Based Works Forum, a centre of excellence for multi-sectoral coordination and information sharing, set up with support from ASIST. The Namibian Government has since adopted and widened the scope of the model of the Forum to set up a national employment creation body. The new body will have various functions that seek to harmonise national policies and interventions related to employment creation with the objective of creating an enabling environment for creation of employment opportunities. Furthermore, the body will influence resource allocation to sectors with greatest potential for decent employment creation and economic development with equity. Monitoring of quality and quantity employment created will also be part of the mandate of the new body, which is envisaged to have legislated powers to access relevant information from various players. ASIST will continue to be part of the process to establish the employment creation body.

## Somalia

Support to the Somalia programme has continued. This innovative programme that until now has been financed by the Government of Italy includes components of employment-intensive methods, community contracting, linkage to local economic development, capacity building, private public partnerships to generate incomes, stimulate local economies and provide neutral forums for cross community dialogue in support of peace. On the ground partnerships have been forged with UNDP and with specialized agencies such as UN Habitat and FAO. Close relations are also being developed with the nascent line ministries that are emerging in the various parts of Somalia. Agreements have recently been signed with the European Union and The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to implement a Community Employment Intensive Programme in Mogadishu and Southern Somalia to which ASIST will continue to provide technical backstopping.

## South Africa

ASIST has supported the National Department of Public Works develop the strategy and implementation plan of the recently launched 1.6Billion US\$ national Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). ASIST will continue to support the implementation of the EPWP which influences investments by all tiers of government to ensure that they create employment opportunities, improve employability of the unemployed through skills training, and provide essential infrastructure that are needed for local development. The programme has a target of creating one million employment opportunities during its five-year duration. (2005 to 2010). The inspiration and design of this major programme owes much to the successful implementation of the Gundo Lashu project, in Limpopo Province, which was launched in 2001. The project was funded by DFID, and implemented by the Limpopo Provincial Government with technical assistance from ASIST.



## Research and studies

- **Community contracting study:** ASIST is currently undertaking a study on community contracting approaches in different countries including Tanzania, Zambia and Somalia. The study aims at reviewing different organizational, institutional and legal modalities and operational frameworks, as well as the benefits and disadvantages. The outcome of this work will be recommendations and guidelines for application of the approach in rural infrastructure works. This is expected by mid-2006.
- **Impact assessment study:** Although some monitoring and impact assessment tools (such as the Rapid Assessment of Poverty Impacts (RAPI) have been developed over the years to establish the impacts on poverty of employment-intensive approaches, there need to review and improve on these to enable a more standardized and systematic approach to impact assessment. This will further help demonstrate the actual impact on poverty which will ultimately increase the commitment and uptake of the approach. Currently a study on existing approaches and methodologies is being done which will be followed by the development of guidelines. The outcome of this work is expected by mid-2006.

## 11<sup>th</sup> Regional seminar for labour-based practitioners



The 11<sup>th</sup> Regional Seminar for Labour-based practitioners hosted by the Ministry of Roads and Public Works, Kenya and ASIST – Africa from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2005 in Mombasa, attracted 250 participants from 19 countries. The participants resolved to uphold, take full advantage of, mainstream and up-scale the use of labour-based approaches in the provision of infrastructure and related services to create wealth through strategies to create enabling environments build capacities; allocate resources and mainstream cross cutting issues including environment and gender and governance. South Africa was voted as the next host of the seminar schedules for 2007.

These recommendations and strategies are articulated in the Mombasa communiqué which can be downloaded from

[http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/recon/eiip/download/news/mombasa\\_statemnt.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/recon/eiip/download/news/mombasa_statemnt.pdf)

## New reports and publications

- Labour-based technology – Review of current practice. Papers of the 11<sup>th</sup> Regional Seminar for Labour-based Practitioners 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2005, Mombasa, Kenya:  
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/recon/eiip/publ/regsem.htm>
- ASIST Technical Bulletin No. 19. June 2005 – Integrating employment-intensive approaches. Click to download a copy: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/recon/eiip/download/bulletin/bulletin19.pdf>
- Gundo Lashu project completion report. ILO. August 2005.
- Manual for supervision of labour-based road rehabilitation works. Zambia. ILO/ASIST. 2005:  
[http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/recon/eiip/download/lbt\\_road\\_rehab.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/recon/eiip/download/lbt_road_rehab.pdf)
- Manual for supervision of labour-based road rehabilitation works. Zambia. ILO/ASIST. 2005. Click to download copy: [http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/recon/eiip/download/lbt\\_road\\_rehab.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/recon/eiip/download/lbt_road_rehab.pdf)
- Planification intégrée de l'accès en milieu rural au Malawi. ILO. 2004

*ASIST – Africa regional programme of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s Employment-intensive Investment Branch. The Programme provides Advisory Support, Information Services and Training to countries in the region on how to maximize employment and local resource utilisation in infrastructure investments.*

### **Our key competencies are:**

*Policy and strategy development and operationalisation;*

- *Programme and project conceptualization, planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation;*
  - *Capacity building programming and implementation;*
  - *Knowledge management (KM), synthesis and dissemination, and KM capacity building.*

### **Contact us:**

*Email: [asist@ilosamat.org.zw](mailto:asist@ilosamat.org.zw)*

*Harare Office: Tel: +263-4-369824/8; Fax: +263-4-369829*

*Nairobi Office: Tel: +254-2-62135; 623827; Fax: +254-2-623540*

*Web site: [www.ilo.org/asist](http://www.ilo.org/asist)*

*This is the first issue of our e-news update, which we intend to produce quarterly to keep you informed on what we are doing. We hope you've found this issue informative. We would like to hear your feedback and views on the content and format, let us know what else you'd like to see in it, etc. Thanks*