



E – NEWS UPDATE

September 2006

It has been a while since our last issue of E-news but we are happy to be able to share with you once again an update on our activities. ASIST Africa is going through a transition due to funding constraint that have brought about some changes and we have had to say farewell to a number of colleagues including Joe Connolly and Gama Sibanda who have joined ILO's Employment Programme for the South of Somalia, and Camilla Lema who has returned to Tanzania where she is working as a consultant. Our Administrative team comprising Phillipa Tsiga, Luna Katiza, Mercy Kwaramba and Michael Murapa have also left the programme. Together with our partners we thank them all for their invaluable contribution to the programme and wish them well in their new endeavours.

Since our last issue we have been very actively involved in Liberia and Sudan and have continued to provide support and pursue new initiatives in Kenya, South Africa and Zambia. The following is a brief summary of some of the work in which we have been involved.

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Brief update on some recent country activities

Kenya

At the request of the Kenya Roads Board (KRB), ASIST Africa has presented a proposal on creating awareness amongst Kenyan parliamentarians and other senior decision makers on the socio-economic benefit of using employment-intensive investment (EII) approaches in the maintenance and improvement of infrastructure works. The proposal also includes the role and contribution of EII in delivering the national development plan and poverty reduction strategies through the creation of decent employment.

Liberia

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Liberia's 14 years of conflict cost the country more than 250,000 lives, devastated the social and cultural fabric of society, hugely displaced the population, destroyed infrastructure, and generated widespread poverty and disease. From a middle income country before the war, Liberia finds itself in a post conflict state in which 75% of the population lives on less than 1 dollar a day and extremely high unemployment levels. Following the country's first free and credible election in late 2005 and the establishment of a democratically elected government in early 2006, Liberia has entered into a new development phase requiring major restructuring of the economy and adjustment of development policies, strategies and approaches. Employment creation is seen as the most crucial building block for future progress, economic growth and social security.

Recognizing the importance of combining both short-and medium term action and also acknowledging the

roles of policy support and direct action, the ILO first assisted the Government of Liberia by providing technical assistance to the design of the Liberia Emergency Employment Programme/Liberia Employment Action Programme (LEEP/LEAP). This is the Government's Employment Strategy for Decent Work and was launched by the President on 15th July 2006. It aims to provide a vision for immediate employment creation, while at the same time putting the foundation for longer term sustainable employment strategy.

ILO's immediate response is a two year comprehensive and integrated national public works programme comprising three interlinked components: (i) demonstration of labour based road works (ii) piloting of public private partnerships for waste management in Monrovia, with entrepreneurship and skills development and (iii) strengthening the role of tripartite constituents. ASIST Africa has been instrumental in developing the two first components, however many ILO offices and departments are involved to ensure a comprehensive and integrated response. The ILO Abuja Office is leading the process, technically backed by the Sub-Regional Office Addis Ababa and ILO programmes and departments including SKILLS, CRISIS, Employment-Intensive Investment, Enterprise Development, Workers' and Employers' Bureau.

South Africa

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ASIST Africa has been requested by the Eastern Cape Government (ECG) to support their Vukuzakhe (Zulu translation for "Stand Up and Build for Yourself") Programme. Vukuzakhe is a rural roads maintenance programme implemented by ECG using rural households as delivery agents. During implementation households identified as the most disadvantaged in the community are selected to be delivery agents. ASIST Africa's support includes transforming the Vukuzakhe Programme into an efficient vehicle for employment creation and maintenance of assets.

Sudan

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Khartoum

Labour-based projects were started in the north west Sudanese state of North Darfur under the ILO/UNDP Special Public Works Programme (SPWP), a multi-sectoral programme covering roads, land development, irrigation, forestry, water, market places, etc. These have continued despite logistic difficulties arising from the project location, recurrent insecurity and insufficient technical resources. Of significant note, is that funding for continuation of the projects has been provided first by the Central Government in Khartoum and later by the State Government of North Darfur after external funding ceased. The projects are technically supported by the Central Support Unit (CSU) of the Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Administrative Reform in Khartoum, and managed by a Project Management Unit in El Fasher. The Central Support Unit, using the experiences gained in these projects in North Darfur, Kordofan, and in the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) financed Nyala El Fursan labour based road in Southern Darfur, has now prepared proposals for expanding the labour-based projects to Kassala and Red Sea States. ASIST Africa recently undertook a joint mission with ILO Sub-Regional Office Cairo to discuss the ILO support to the CSU.

Juba

ASIST Africa in collaboration with ILO Sub-Regional Office Cairo and ILO/CRISIS has developed programmes for support to the post-comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) Sudan recovery and reconstruction process. The proposed programmes follow the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) and the United Nations Country Programme for Sudan, both of which rate peace consolidation and capacity building high on the list of priorities. The programmes fall into four broad areas; capacity building for recovery of labour administration systems and re-establishment of tripartism as foundation for dialogue and decent work programming; vocational skills training and micro-enterprise support programmes to increase employability of the Sudanese people; local economic development strategy for joint diagnosis and programming in support of area-based recovery and the sustainable return, reintegration and resettlement of displaced persons; and labour-based programmes to create large scale employment, inject cash into local economy and support productive sector through improved infrastructure.

Zambia

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ILO has recently signed an agreement with the Government of Zambia for the provision of technical support and advisory services by ASIST Africa to the Small-Scale Community Access Sub-component of the DANIDA funded programme. The programme implementation has just started focusing on local level planning.

Study on employment aspects of slum upgrading: Practices and opportunities identified in two South African case studies. Prepared for ILO by Glen Robbins and Anton Aiello. March 2006

This study was carried out to examine the employment aspects of past, present and future slum upgrading programmes in South Africa, focusing on labour-intensive technologies, private sector involvement, community participation as well as skills development.

Increased Application of Labour-Based Methods Through Appropriate Engineering Standards: Ghana, Uganda and Zimbabwe Country Reports; ILO and TRL. June 2006

Three country reports and one regional report have been produced documenting results of research carried out in Ghana, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The research was aimed at studying currently applicable standards for low volume roads in these countries, reviewing their appropriateness for the intended service level and recommending appropriate standards that increase the wider application of local resources. The project has also produced a guideline for quality assurance procedures and appropriate specifications for labour-based roads. The research is still continuing in a further three countries, i.e. Ethiopia, Lesotho and Mozambique. The findings of this research are relevant to developing countries faced with expanding road network requirements, dwindling resources and the challenge of prioritising and distributing available resources to expand and maintain infrastructure assets.

Recent Events**Youth Employment Summit (YES), Kenya 13- 16 June 2006**

ASIST Africa provided technical advice and inputs to the YES Secretariat towards the organization of the summit and in the development of the agenda. The Government of Kenya and the Global YES Campaign hosted 3rd Global Youth Employment Summit (YES), in Nairobi from 13 – 16 September 2006. YES Kenya 2006 was a capacity building and knowledge sharing event where effective policy, practice and experiences in creating youth employment, ways to raise funds, and strategies for building core country capacity to handle youth unemployment issues were discussed. The summit included Ministerial meetings, plenary sessions and open forums, workshops and skills development events. Over 2000 delegates attended the summit from over 100 countries, including youth leaders, government officials, development professionals and business leaders. ILO mounted an exhibit on youth employment at the summit's Innovative Market Place during the event.

Dissemination workshop on the Increased Application of Labour-Based Methods Through Appropriate Engineering Standards, 20 – 21 June 2006

Following the completion of the research work in the three participating countries, a regional dissemination workshop was held in Nairobi Kenya. The workshop discussed preliminary findings of the research, modes of deterioration of low-volume unsealed roads, deterioration relationships between selected parameters and the newly developed life-cycle cost methodology for forecasting total investment inputs over the “life” of low-volume roads. The Guideline for Quality Assurance Procedures and Appropriate Specifications for Labour-Based Roads was presented at the workshop. The workshop was attended by senior government decision makers and practitioners responsible for roads from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tanzania, United Kingdom, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The research reports and quality assurance guideline have just been printed and currently being distributed and are available on request.

Youth Employment and Urban Development Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Employment Creation in Municipal Services Delivery Improving Living Conditions and Providing Jobs for the Poor, Johannesburg, South Africa, 27 – 28 February 2006

This workshop was organised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in collaboration with the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) of South Africa (SA). It brought together policy makers and practitioners, from Ghana, Kenya, South Africa and Tanzania, on employment aspects of urban municipal service delivery. The objectives of the workshop were to share lessons learned and better practices on the employment aspects of slum upgrading and urban development, as a basis for future action in the context of country programming and conceptual development, with a particular focus on youth. For more information and the workshop report visit:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/recon/eiip/news/workshop.htm>

- Strategies for local economic development (LED), 2nd – 13th October 2006. ILO Training Centre (ITC) Turin, Italy E-mail: emp@itcilo.org. Website: www.itcilo.it.
- International Engineers Course for labour-based roadworks, 3rd October – 11th November 2006, Kisii Training Centre (KTC), Kisii, Kenya. Contact: courses@kihbt-ktc.com; Tel/Fax: +254 058 30699.
- Putting employment at the centre of public investment and poverty reduction process. Interregional workshop on employment intensive investment policies and programmes, 9th – 13th October 2006. ILO Training Centre (ITC) Turin, Italy. E-mail: emp@itcilo.org. Website: www.itcilo.it
- L'emploi en point de mire des investissements publics et des processus de réduction de la pauvreté - atelier sur les politiques et programmes d'investissements à forte intensité d'emplois, 13th – 17th November 2006. ILO Training Centre (ITC) Turin, Italy. E-mail: emp@itcilo.org. Website: www.itcilo.it.
- Third Africa Transport Technology Transfer Conference hosted by the Malawi Transport Technology Transfer Centre. Theme: Technology transfer for Africa's sustainable transport systems. Mangochi, Malawi, 22nd – 25th May 2007. <http://www.poly.ac.mw/centers/t2c/>

12th Regional Seminar for Labour-Based Practitioners

This seminar will be hosted by the Government of South Africa towards the end of 2007. The first announcement of the seminar describing theme, venue and period of the seminar will be made soon.

New Publications

- Increased application of labour-based methods through appropriate engineering standards research reports and guideline:
 - Regional Report: A consolidated report and analysis from the three countries
 - Ghana Country Report
 - Uganda Country Report
 - Zimbabwe Country Report
 - Site set up and monitoring report
 - Guideline for Quality Assurance Procedures for Road Works Executed Using Labour-Based Methods

A compilation CD-ROM with all the reports is also available.

- Labour-based technology – Review of current practice. Papers and Proceedings of the 11th Regional Seminar for Labour-based Practitioners 2nd – 7th October 2005, Mombasa, Kenya. ILO/ASIST; Ministry of Roads and Public Works, Kenya. April 2006. Download from: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/recon/eiip/publ/regsem.htm>. A compilation CD with all the papers, presentations, proceedings and other useful resources is also available.
- Study on employment aspects of slum upgrading: Practices and opportunities identified in two South African case studies. Prepared for ILO by Glen Robbins and Anton Aiello. March 2006.
- Contract management manual and standard tender documents for routine maintenance and rehabilitation/improvement road works: Prepared by ASIST Africa with financial assistance from UNDP, Kenya for the Kenya Roads 2000 Programme, Ministry of Roads and Public Works have been published on CD-ROM to facilitate distribution and use.

Requests for copies of these publications can be sent to ASIST Africa see address below.

Announcements

Consultant roster

A new web-based Consultants Roster for the Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) has been established on the ILO's recruitment system to facilitate recruitment for both short and long term assignments. Interested consultants may apply to the EIIP Consultant Roster at any time, but particular assignments will be

announced regularly on the system and specific applications can be made for these jobs. Consultants who have sent us their curriculum vitae (CV) previously and are interested in being considered for future consultancies are kindly asked to resubmit their most recent information through the online EIIP Consultant Roster. To register for the first time, start by creating a password and user profile at:

https://erecruit.ilo.org/e-jobs/public/hrd-vac-newuser.cfm?o_c=2000&apptype=1&jobinfo_uid_c=1.

The system will allow you to fill out a personal history form (P11) and to attach a CV and cover letter if desired. Please specify the EIIP Consultant Roster from the drop down list when asked how you became familiar with the website; and also when asked to specify the exact referral person or site; this will ensure you are considered for EIIP posts.

You may edit and update your personal history form and profile at any time. As vacancies arise, candidates registered in the roster will be considered.

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 optimise employment and local resource utilisation in infrastructure investments for local development.

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.*

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