



Employment for Peace

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NEWSLETTER OF THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME IN SUPPORT OF PEACE IN MOGADISHU,
SOUTH AND CENTRAL SOMALIA

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Bay Region District Commissioners Service Delivery Capacity Built

District Commissioners from five districts in Bay Region have signed new agreements with the ILO Employment for Peace Programme in Mogadishu and South and Central Somalia. Through the newly signed agreement ILO will assist the District Councils to establish and manage District Public Works Units to deliver services and provide immediate employment opportunities through the rehabilitation of infrastructure. The ILO Programme has been engaged with local administrations through community employment intensive projects in Baidoa since August 2006. These projects provide Somalis in Bay Region with employment opportunities in large scale, pro-poor, employment-intensive works improving access and infrastructure.

As with the rest of Somalia, the Districts in the Bay Region require the rehabilitation of social and economic infrastructure, and the restoration of municipal service delivery. However, the newly established local administrations lack the resources and skills to rehabilitate infrastructure and deliver the required services.

The objective of this initiative is therefore to enhance the capacities of the district councils to deliver municipal services and rehabilitate infrastructure through approaches that create decent work opportunities in the delivery process. Local Somali engineers that were recently trained by the Programme on employment intensive approaches have been assigned to the works units to provide the technical and supervisory expertise. Continuous support in terms of on-the-job training and mentoring of both technical and administrative support staff will also be provided under the agreement.

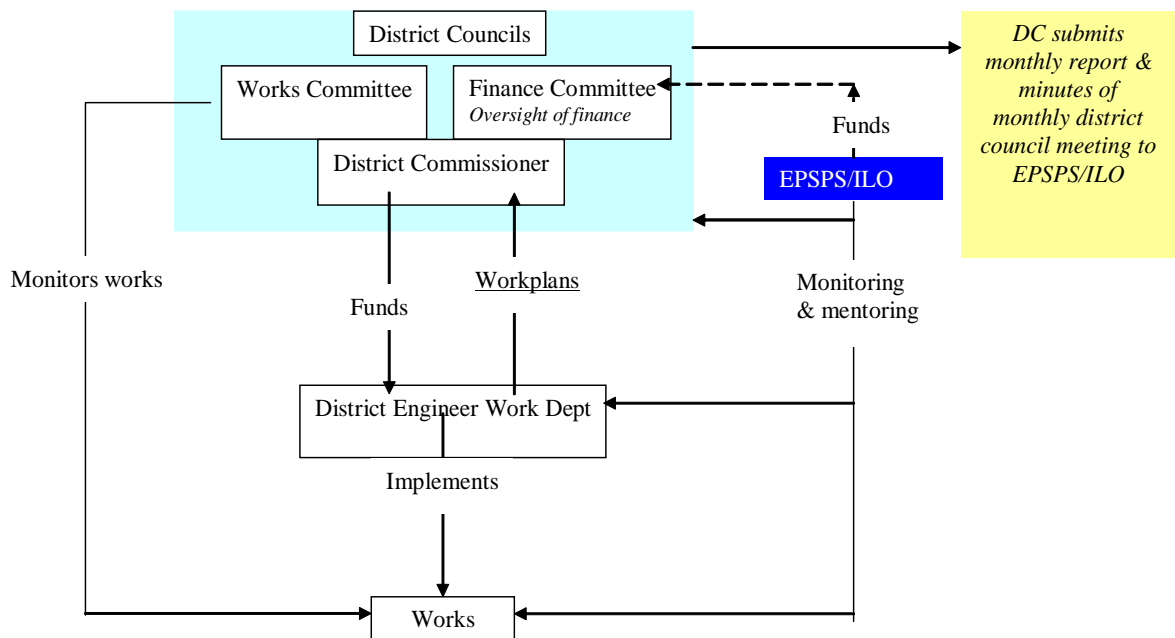
The District Commissioners of Baidoa, Burhakaba, Dinisor, Berdale and Qansadhere are confident that this support will enable them develop local skills and capacity to plan and implement projects and contribute to employment creation. The most significant aspect of the agreements is the fact that the District Councils are taking responsibility for the implementation of the programme. They are responsible for the identification of areas of operations, liaison with local communities, management and accountability of funds. The councils have prepared themselves for this task by opening District Council bank accounts and, through council meetings, voted in Finance and Public Works Committees that will be accountable to the District Commissioner and elected councilors.





Burhakaba DC signing agreement

A rapid assessment survey of potential infrastructure employment focused projects in all five districts has been completed. Using the assessment the local engineers and other technical staff are working with the District Commissioners and Public Works Departments in the five districts on project selection criteria. Projects will ideally target the most vulnerable and have high employment content. Potential projects include solid waste management, feeder road spot improvement, drainage improvement and water catchment rehabilitation. It is the responsibility of the District Public Works Committees in consultation with their constituents to prioritize projects. The District Engineers, employed by the respective Public Works Departments will subsequently draw up budgets and bills of quantities to be approved by ILO before project implementation begins. Workers will be hired by the council using agreed procedures and practices.



Workers in Baidoa

Meanwhile the community employment project in Baidoa, which employed 205 people from August 2006 ended at the end of November.. On completion of this successful project which involved the Baidoa District Commissioner upon his appointment, ILO continued to work with the Council providing some modest resources to continue to carry out minor works. This allowed the project to establish a solid working relationship, assess the attitudes and capacities, and contributed to the design of longer term agreements with all five districts.

Suspension of Project Activities in Mogadishu

Regrettably the project activities in Mogadishu have been suspended. The project which started in August 2006, engaged communities in employment intensive projects around the city. The project activities involved clearing garbage heaps that have accumulated around the city over years and transferring it to dump site on the outskirts.

As of the 12th of March, end of week 24 of the project, a total of 300,000 workdays of employment has been created and an estimated 650,000 cubic meters of garbage removed and disposed of. As importantly, at district level over 600,000 USD had been paid in wages

The workers, who were typically women (67%) and men from the poorer segments of the community, earned two dollars a day which represented a significant boost in the household income. A survey of the workers indicated most supported at least eight dependents on an average monthly income of about USD45 prior to this work..

The early termination is due entirely to the security situation in the city. The programme wishes to take the opportunity to thank the people of Mogadishu and the district leaders for their partnership and support throughout this difficult programme period. We also wish to acknowledge the work of SAACID in the management and implementation of the programme.

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