

Outline for project extension of Jobsnet to address needs emerging from Tsunami

Background:

JobsNet is an ongoing 3 year project of the Ministry of Labour Relations and Foreign Employment, managed by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, funded by Sida and with technical assistance of ILO. The objective is to deliver a comprehensive employment service through a transparent and merit-based system driven by information communication technology. JobsNet is a modern, demand driven, employment sourcing- and delivery system set up as a Public Private Partnership.

The existing network covers the entire country with 17 centers, some situated in the affected areas. The IT-network and the required software are completely operational. 60 well trained staff members are working in the regional centers and the head office, some of them are public servants from the Ministry of Labour relations and Foreign Employment.



The devastation after the tsunami, leads to new urgent needs in terms of employment services; (i) access; there is a need for more outreach to the affected communities; (ii) monitoring of the labour market; the reconstruction will require a close monitoring of the labour market; including continuous analysis of demand and supply; (iii) training; reconstruction will require a significant increase in skilled labour for example in construction work; (iv) temporary employment; the expected reconstruction projects will require an efficient delivery system of the needed workforce. Building on the existing well established structure, Jobsnet can rapidly expand its services to address these needs.

Jobsnet extension:

1. Labour market information system; A 4 month consultancy is suggested to conduct analysis of the labour market needs so that programmes can be responsive to these needs

2. Mobile Training; 5 mobile training units will be set up to provide employment services in the affected location

3. "Training for rebuilding"-crash program

The national rebuilding program, with the support of many different international agencies and donors, will increase the demand for construction workers. Even before the tsunami there was already a shortage of skilled labour in that sector. In the North and East this has been a long standing problem, causing delay in rebuilding programs. An assessment is ongoing on the needed skills and the gap; this is being done by the ILO through Jobsnet, the Ministries of Labour and Skills Development, the University of Morotuwu and GTZ.

This will inform the more detailed strategy required for crash training programmes. Jobsnet intends to act as a channel to existing training providers. Jobsnet will also undertake a campaign to promote dignity of labour in the construction sector.

4. Temporary jobs for rebuilding

Many employers and agencies, not familiar with the area, will be in constant need for labour support on a short term basis. Local employers will fill in those vacancies mostly by using their informal local network. This is not available for non-locals.

JobsNet, as a national matching labour matching system, can fill this gap by setting up a data base with short term jobs and promoting this new possibility towards potential employers in the area. For these temporary jobs, jobsnet would function as an outsourcing agent, keeping in line with proper working conditions and labour standards

The legal aspects of this proposal need to be analyzed urgently, because it creates the introduction of temporarily labour offices in Sri Lanka, witch do not exist at the moment.



**Students from the Colombo University
Conducting livelihood surveys in the
Affected areas**

Budget needs

Approximately 1 million US\$

A full project proposal will be done by Jobsnet once donor interest is confirmed

Duration: 24 months

Partners: Ministry of labour