On 9 September 2013, the conflict between the Philippine Government Troops both from the military and police and the Nur Misuari faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) occurred as the latter group held civilians hostage and attempted to siege the City Hall of Zamboanga City.

This caused a large number of people to be displaced, with many moving into Zamboanga’s athletics compound and grandstand. Over a year on, there are still around 2,000 families in evacuation centres and over 4,000 families in other transitory sites. As of 9 of February 2015, the conflict had displaced 19,057 individuals or 3,425 households in fourteen barangays in Zamboanga City. As of February 2015 there are still 1,157 households in evacuation centres and 2,268 in transitional shelters.

The role of the ILO in crisis response, whether natural or man-made, focuses on “framing” or “influencing” the design and implementation of post-crisis response livelihood programmes so that they explicitly take decent work concerns into account. This is true in both the emergency employment phase and transition into the sustainable livelihood recovery and rehabilitation phase. It looks to complement the work of partner national government agencies, international organizations, non-government organizations from workers and employer’s groups and People’s Organizations in local communities. ILO has partnered with FAO to create a joint position supporting both ILO and FAO on the ground in Zamboanga. Such collaboration shows both ILO’s and FAO’s willingness and support to the UN’s Delivering as One message. This is true of both the work supporting the livelihood cluster of the local government and of the work being carried out as part of the joint-UN Peace Building Fund (PBF) project.

ILO’s collaboration with FAO supporting the livelihood cluster and the Durable Solutions Strategy will:

- Develop sustainable livelihood opportunities that center on community-based enterprises with higher level market linkages;
- Support and capacitate the Mayor’s office in order for them to lead coordination on the livelihood strategy and assist in the prioritisation and operationalization of livelihood interventions based on the findings from the livelihood summit.
- Enhance community ownership of interventions through participatory and consultative approaches.
- Integrate agreed priority cross-cutting issues (e.g. gender, youth, cultural diversity, environment, human rights, etc.) in discussions, sectoral needs assessments, analysis, planning and monitoring and response.

In addition to this, ILO’s component of the PBF will look to the Provision of viable economic alternatives for IDPs in Zamboanga, with a particular focus on women and youth.
Support to Find Durable Solutions in Zamboanga

**MAIN ACTIVITIES**

- Technical Assistance in terms of coordination in Livelihood and Food security Sector of Zamboanga Roadmap to Recovery and Reconstruction (Z3R) embedding the decent work principles and standards.

- Assessments of potential economic sectors in identified communities in Zamboanga, including possible cross-market linkages based on value chains/supply chains.

- Conduct enterprise development trainings for the IDPs.

- Assess wage employment opportunities and corresponding skills training requirements.

- Identification of existing businesses or enterprises that can be developed and provide support to strengthen linkages with markets, technologies and financial capital.

- Deliver identified skills training courses, linked to needs of local employers and facilitate wage employment referrals for youth IDPs, where appropriate.

- Workshops on Community Based Enterprise Development for Aspiring Entrepreneurs and Community Based Tool for Financial Literacy for Business Planning.

- Assisting IDPs to form associations and accessing government regular programs for sustainable livelihoods.

- Embedding Decent work principles within Zamboanga IDPs Durable Solution.

**PROJECT OUTCOMES**

- Sustainable livelihood opportunities created for vulnerable groups, particularly young women and men, through skills and entrepreneurship training in identified market linkages.

- 100 women and men (at least 60% youth) and their families provided with enterprise development support.

- At least 200 youth (composed of at least 40% female) receive skills training and technical support for livelihood activities.

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