

THE ILO *in the* DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC *of* CONGO



Briefing Note No. 8 in preparation to the CWGER mission to DRC

ILO/CRISIS, October 2007

CWGER mission to DRC

An inter-agency mission of the Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery, represented by UNHCR, UNDP and OCHA, is going to take place **from 22 October to 4 November** in DRC. The main objective of the mission is to identify gaps and type of support required to the CWGER (e.g. technical assistance, tools). The itinerary includes **Kinshasa, Goma and Bukavu** (Eastern DRC). According to initial plans, the ILO and other member agencies of the CWGER were expected to take part in the mission. In accordance with its expertise and tools, the ILO would have looked at aspects related to livelihood and employment recovery, by deploying aCRISIS Specialist from the HQ and an official of the ILO Office in Kinshasa. However, it was eventually debated that the high number of potential participants in the mission and the extremely diverse group would have placed too much of a burden on the field-based colleagues. Following the recommendations provided during a preparatory meeting, the Cluster leads took the final decision of narrowing down the scope of the mission. According to the new set of objectives (see below), only OCHA, UNDP and UNHCR will participate at this point in time.

ILO CRISIS made preparations and involved ILO's internal network, and stands ready to give support even if the ILO will not be directly represented. **It is recommended that ILO colleagues in the field are contacted to provide an overview of the ongoing country activities and the expertise that ILO can offer to facilitate the durable return of vulnerable populations and their sustainable reintegration back into communities.**

The **main objectives** of the mission are: sensitize and raise awareness of UN agencies, donors, Government and other key actors on all aspects of (early) recovery within the framework of the cluster approach; Identify gaps, challenges and opportunities in the development of a national strategy for return and reintegration.

The **composition** of the mission is: Jahal De Meritens (UNDP, team leader), Pablo Mateu (UNHCR), Tom Delrue (OCHA)

Background on Early Recovery in DRC

As part of the ongoing Humanitarian Reform Process, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) designated DRC as a pilot country for the roll-out of the new cluster approach as a framework for coordinating humanitarian response.

In line with this decision, in 2005, the pre-existing interagency Reintegration/Early Recovery Thematic Group, co-chaired by UNHCR and UNDP, was reconvened as an Early Recovery Cluster (otherwise known as the Return, Reintegration and Recovery Group). The Cluster/Group brings together a wide range of actors, including UN Agencies, international and local NGOs, MONUC, Government line ministries, and donor representatives.

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES...

There are currently an estimated 1.66 million internally displaced persons in the DRC: at least 400.000 refugees scattered in 9 neighbouring countries, and a further 1.68 million people recently returning to re-establish their homes and livelihoods. Most of them are women, youth and children, and require special measures to ensure their reintegration.

The Early Recovery Cluster aims to mainstream return and reintegration priorities into existing and planned reconstruction and development processes at national, provincial and territorial levels. Among the main tasks for the Cluster is a mapping exercise of the war-affected population, and elaboration of a comprehensive country strategy. Another important function of the cluster is to identify gaps, and to propose and validate projects aimed at facilitating the durable return of vulnerable populations and their sustainable reintegration back into communities.

ILO's TC programmes in DRC

DEMOBILIZATION, REINSERTION AND REINTEGRATION OF EX COMBATANTS

The ILO was the first agency to launch and implement a socio-economic reintegration programme in the country. The ILO has therefore supported the DRC Government in the drafting of the National Programme for Demobilization and Reintegration, funded by the MultiDonor Trust Fund and implemented under the coordination of the UNDP.

2001-2003: (Phase 1) Preparatory assistance for socio-economic reintegration of war affected groups (Results)

(Project funded by the WB and implemented with IOM, BUNADER, and WB)

- Sectors with labour absorption capacity have been assessed.
- Existing vocational centres have been identified.
- Key players have been trained for designing and implementing reintegration programmes.
- Vocational rehabilitation, income generating activities and placement assistance has been provided to facilitate the socio-economic reintegration of Former Congolese Combatants.
- Reintegration packages have been distributed.

2004-2007: (Phase 2) Support to the socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants

through the promotion of micro and small enterprises, cooperatives and income generating activities

Geographic areas covered: Gemena et Mbandaka (Province de l'Equateur); Goma (Province du Nord Kivu); Bukavu (Province du Sud Kivu); Kindu (Province du Maniema); Kikwit (Province du Bandundu).

Activities: a creation of an information management system for service management and monitoring of the project; vocational training in economic sectors with high potential of job creation; professional orientation and counselling; training on business management, cooperatives promotion and creation of micro-small enterprises; awareness raising and sensitization of host communities. Beneficiaries: 7020 ex-combatants (men and women). Indirectly also their families and host communities will benefit.

TYPE OF ILO INTERVENTIONS IN EARLY RECOVERY SETTINGS

- Rapid impact, needs and capacity assessments focused on local economic resources and livelihood opportunities,;
- Labour market surveys and analysis;
- Establishment of and capacity building to Emergency Employment Services centres;
- Feasibility plans for early economic recovery and policy advice to national governments and local authorities on emergency employment strategies and social finance
- Design and implementation of emergency employment schemes (e.g. cash for work)
- Local economic recovery strategies for socio-economic reintegration of crisis-affected groups;
- Micro and small enterprise recovery through short-cycle business-management training, cash grants, access to microfinance schemes and coaching;
- Labour intensive reconstruction works, technical assistance and training in labour-based rehabilitation and reconstruction of infrastructures;
- Rapid skills training and capacity building in key sectors of the labour market with a high potential of job creation in the short term;
- Training, technical assistance and tools on micro-credit and micro-finance.

CORE TOOLS AND LEARNING PACKAGES (not exhaustive list)

- *Introduction to microfinance in conflict-affected communities.*
- *Guidelines for Establishing Emergency Public Employment Services*
- *Guidelines for Employment and Skills Training in Conflict-Affected Countries*
- *Good labour policies and practices in employment intensive programmes – Quick overviews from the guide*
- *Employment Intensive Reconstruction Works in Countries Emerging from Armed Conflicts*
- *Good labour policies and practices in employment intensive programmes – Quick overviews from the guide.*
- *Capacity-building for contracting in employment intensive infrastructure programmes.*
- *Organisation and Contracting in Development Programmes and Projects: a study of current practice at the community level*
- *Community contracts in urban infrastructure works: practical lessons from experience*
- *Learning package on Local Economic Recovery*
- *Start and Improve Your Business*
- *GET Ahead for Women in Enterprise Training Package and Resource Kit*

Employment-related info at a glance...

Both the **Document sur la Stratégie de Réduction de la Pauvreté** (DRSP) and the **Programme d'Accion Prioritaire** (PAP) recommend the promotion of employment through vocational training and labour intensive approaches.

The **National Forum on Employment** was held from 18 to 20 September in Kinshasa. The tripartite Labour Commission of the country is currently validating the results and producing a report. Main recommendations were: development of competences and of employability by targeting youth and reinforcing the vocational training system; development of micro and small enterprises and promote the use of labour-intensive approaches in infrastructure (re)construction; the promotion of cooperatives.

An emergency strategic framework has been designed by the ILO to support the creation of employment and the generation of income in the country. Its main components are: (1) construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of infrastructures; (2) promotion of micro, small and medium enterprises; (3) development/strengthening of micro-finance system; (4) protection and socio-economic reinsertion in the labour market; (5) capacity building of local and national institutions

A **programme supporting youth employment** in the country has been recently approved by the MDG Fund technical committee.

International Conference in Paris (28-30 November): the conference gathers DRC Government representatives, Donors and agencies engaged in technical cooperation programmes in the country. Its aim is to take stock of the achievements so far and set the stage for further action. The ILO is preparing project proposals in different domains of its expertise (vocational training, enterprise promotion, labour intensive infrastructure reconstruction) in consultation with the Government.

ERADICATION OF CHILD LABOUR:

Concluded project:

A five-year programme implemented in seven countries, including DRC (provinces of Equator, Western and Eastern Kasai, South Kivu) ended in May 2007. Outputs are the following:

- ❖ In DRC, 897 children at risk (including 436 girls) were prevented from recruitment and 1700 children formerly associated with armed forces and groups (including 367 girls) were reintegrated. Services provided included vocational training and support to employment.
- ❖ Labour market assessments were conducted in several provinces of DRC.
- ❖ A good practices report on "*Prevention of child recruitment and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups. Strategic framework for addressing the economic gap*" was produced.
- ❖ A documentary "*From hell to hope: giving child soldiers a chance to start over*" was produced.

Ongoing project:

A one-year project implemented in two countries, including DRC (province of South Kivu), started in October 2007. The expected outputs are the following:

- ❖ Eradication of child labour and children's involvement in armed forces is being mainstreamed into national and sectoral policies and programmes.
- ❖ The National Steering Committee to Combat Worst Forms of Child Labour is strengthened and trained.
- ❖ The list of hazardous forms of child labour is elaborated
- ❖ In DRC, about 500 children and young people affected by war are provided with economic reintegration services with a focus on employment support services (provision of business development services, mentoring, access to micro credit, micro health insurance etc.)

Contact: Ms. Sophie DECONINCK (details in following page)

SOCIAL PROTECTION:

Ongoing project:

- Activities: Support for decentralized systems of social protection, formulation of national strategies for the extension of social protection; development and maintenance of a web platform for knowledge and information sharing on social protection and micro-insurance

- Tools: Web platform for information and knowledge sharing on micro-insurance. Contact: gess@ilo.org Web platform for information and knowledge sharing on social security.

Contact: Andre Bernard (details in following page)

Interesting to know: a needs assessment mission took place in North and South Kivu where there is the interest but not the available financial resources to implement a programme

EMPLOYMENT INTENSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION:

Concluded project: Emergency programme for the rehabilitation of infrastructure and the improvement of living conditions of populations

Ongoing project: Advisory Support, Information Services and Training for Employment-Intensive Infrastructure Development

Contact: Emmanuel Rubayiza (details in following page)

SOCIAL DIALOGUE:

Ongoing project: Act Mines, to improve the working conditions & the promotion of social dialogue in the mining and metallurgic sectors

- Duration and Geographic coverage: 2007-2009, Katanga

- Activities: Improvement of working conditions within artisan mines and mining companies; organization and formalization of miners and shops in the form of economic structures providing goods and services; support to the representative organizations within the mining sector; social responsibility in the mining sector; establishment and facilitation of a forum for consultation and dialogue in the mining sector.

Contact: Mr. Ibrahima BARRY (details in following page)

Questions for Needs Assessment of ILO support to the Cluster

- 1 Is “livelihood recovery” a priority for reintegration of conflict affected groups in the country? If yes, where? Try to identify the target group(s).
- 2 Are the livelihood-related needs adequately evaluated and consequently addressed?
- 3 Which agencies and (I)NGOs are focusing on livelihood recovery? What are the Governmental (national and local) counterparts looking after this issue?
- 4 What are the approaches, tools and expertise available and currently applied to promote livelihood recovery in a sustainable manner?
- 5 Is there awareness of ILO tools and expertise for employment creation and income generation, social protection of vulnerable groups, social dialogue, and promotion of rights at work? Do you think they would add value?
- 6 Are ILO tools and expertise used for early recovery programming? Why?
- 7 If a mission should be undertaken by the ILO in support to the Cluster, what would be its core objective? Which expertise would be required? How long should it last?

ILO Contacts in DRC

ILO Office Address:

Building LOSONIA, Boulevard du 30 Juin, en face de la Regideso - B.P. 7248 Kinshasa - RDC
Web page: <http://www.ilo.org/public/french/region/afpro/kinshasa/index.htm>
E -mail Web Master: kama@ilo.org
Tel: +243.12.33.428

Mr. Toudjida ANDEMEL, Director ILO Office in Kinshasa
E-mail: andemel@kinshasa.ilo.sita.net

Mr. Kavunga KAMBALE, National Programme Officer
E-mail: kambale@kinshasa.ilo.sita.net

Mr. Jean Jaques KABANGA, National Programme Coordinator of ARED (Economic Reintegration of Ex-combatants)
E-mail : jjkabanga2002@yahoo.fr
Tel. 00243817152567

Ms. Sophie DECONINCK, Chief Technical Advisor of IPEC project
E-mail: deconinck_sophie@yahoo.fr
Tel. 00 243 81 71 50 851

Mr. Andre BERNARD, Chief Technical Advisor of STEP Programme
E-mail: bandre@kinshasa.ilo.sita.net, steprdc@yahoo.fr
Tel: +243 99 89 137 16

Mr. Ibrahima BARRY, Chief Technical Advisor of ACT-mine project in Katanga
E-mail: ibprodiaf@sentoo.sn
Tel. 00 243 99 93 06 071

ILO Contacts in HQ

ILO Office Address:

Rte des Morillons, 4 - 1205 Geneva
Web page: <http://www.ilo.org/public/>
Tel: +41-22-799611

Ms. Francesca BATTISTIN (ILO Programme for Crisis Response and Reconstruction - CRISIS)
E-mail: battistin@ilo.org
Tel. +41 – 22 – 799 7083
Web page: <http://www.ilo.org/crisis>

Mr. Girma Agune (Skills and Employability Department – SKILLS)
E-mail: jacquier@ilo.org
Tel. +41 – 22 – 799 7295
Web page: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/skills/index.htm>

Mr. Maria Jose Chamorro (International programme on the Eradication of Child Labour - IPEC)
E-mail: Chamorro@ilo.org
Tel. +41 – 22 – 799 7427
Web page: <http://www.ilo.org/ipec/index.htm>

Mr. Christian Jacquier (ILO Strategies and Tools Against Social Exclusion and Poverty - STEP)
E-mail: jacquier@ilo.org
Tel. +41 – 22 – 799 7449
Web page: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/secsoc/step/>

Mr. Emmanuel Rubayiza (Employment Intensive Investment – EMP/INVEST)
E-mail: rubayiza@ilo.org
Tel: +41 22 7996459
Web page: <http://www.ilo.org/intranet/english/employment/recon/eiip/index.htm>