Project No. 2-1

Region: Africa
Countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda

Project:
Employment Creation in Municipal Service Delivery in Eastern Africa: Improving Living Conditions and Providing Jobs for the Poor

Donors:
United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)

Project Description:
Jobs and services for the poor
Many municipalities in East Africa are under pressure to create jobs for the poor while ensuring adequate basic infrastructure and services. This is a major challenge in the fast growing urban settlements, where poverty is high.

One approach to address the need for more jobs and better services is to involve small enterprises and community organizations in the provision of municipal services. In Dar es Salaam, the local authorities adopted this method for solid waste collection. Jointly with local partners, a franchise system was put in place in 1998 covering more than half the city’s wards. The three municipalities have each tendered contracts to local enterprises and community groups. In 2003, more than 50 franchisees are collecting 40% of the waste generated in the city (2,500 tons per day). This service is funded through a fee collected directly from customers. All together, this provides jobs for more than 2,000 people.

The ILO has been supporting this effort by advising municipal staff on the design and implementation of the system, training small enterprises and community groups on how to start and manage a waste collection business, and supporting public awareness raising campaigns. The results of the programme have been documented and disseminated through workshops and conferences. With the financial support of DFID, a new project entitled “Employment creation in municipal service delivery in Eastern Africa: improving living conditions and providing jobs for the poor,” was launched in January 2004 to support the previous work undertaken in this area.

Many more municipalities in Tanzania have started applying a similar approach to solid waste collection and other urban services. In Kenya and Uganda, local Governments and small enterprises are also interested in reforming and expanding service delivery. The ILO aims to support these efforts through its Area Office in Dar es Salaam. A team of three experts will guide both local authorities and franchisees with a view to increase their capacity to build effective partnerships for service delivery.

The project aims at building more local capacity to deal with the challenges of employment creation and service delivery for the urban poor. It is designed to show that Public-Private Partnerships between municipal governments and locally-based representative organizations, can result in the creation of jobs that are free of child labour, have adequate working conditions and especially benefit poor women and men.

What support is being offered?
Training programmes began in August 2004, to offer support in three areas:
1. Capacity strengthening of municipal authorities and waste collectors, through awareness raising, training, network and organisation development
2. Technical advice on enabling systems for small enterprise based service delivery including pro-poor contracting, revenue collection and monitoring and evaluation
3. Support to broad policy development on issues related to poverty reduction, service delivery and employment creation through advice and knowledge development and dissemination.
Where is support available?
Municipal authorities as well as small-scale and community-based enterprises in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar are eligible for such support. In Kenya and Uganda, support will be offered to two or three municipalities. As far as possible, work will be carried out through training institutions, research organizations and consultants based in the three countries. This will be coordinated with other support programmes that aim at urban development, local government capacity building and employment promotion.

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