Project Concept

Title: Immediate employment friendly rehabilitation and reconstruction in selected affected districts

Duration: One year

Budget: US$ 600,000

Background and justification

The Tsunami triggered by massive earthquakes in the Sumatra and Nicobar regions, plunged Sri Lanka into crisis. The waves lashed the Eastern, Southern and Western coasts causing extensive damage to life and property. Fourteen districts have been affected, some much worse than others. The death toll as of 3rd January 2005 is at 29,957; the numbers of injured 16,665; with 5,744 missing and 861,016 women and men displaced.

As the immediate needs of food, sanitation and shelter are being addressed, it is critical to, at once, and through quick impact projects, also address the recovery process. The direct, indirect and secondary effects of this disaster are enormous. Having hit mostly the coastal areas, the two major livelihood areas affected are fisheries and the hotel and tourism industry, including eco tourism which was starting to bloom in several districts, as well as many related informal economy activities. With such a vast amount of displaced women and men in the camps, the key will be to offer assistance in the return of people to their communities. Without support to re-establish their livelihoods, people will be less willing to leave the camps, may become burdens on the households of less affected relatives and friends, or may migrate to urban centres. Livelihood- and job recovery needs to start at once. To start with, an action oriented, rapid assessment of the job losses and the impact on social protection systems is essential.

Another immediate concern is the increased risk of trafficking of children. Many children have lost their parents and have been left destitute and stranded. The media have reported that some of these children have been removed or "abducted" by interested persons. Since the adoption of children is a legal process the NCPA has launched an appeal that children need to be protected from these arbitrary interventions in the guise of 'adoption'.

The ILO and crisis response

The ILO can draw on extensive experience and capacity in the area of crisis response: (i) its historic involvement in crisis since the great depression in the thirties and its

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1 Source: district secretariats
contributions through the promotion of employment and social justice which were recognized by the award of a Nobel Peace Prize as far back as 1969; (ii) ILO’s responses in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Sudan, Central America, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mozambique, Cambodia, Gujarat, Somalia and East Timor to promote a local economic development approach to stimulating local economies and creating employment in crisis affected countries; (iii) its experience with cooperative projects in post crisis contexts; (iv) a network of expertise that can be mobilised quickly; (v) its access to data and existing tools to quickly set in motion employment related interventions; (vi) ILO’s tripartite structure and emphasis on social dialogue, giving easy access to all key actors in civil society. The ILO approach while recognising the urgency of immediate and often temporary employment creation demands, also works at the earliest possible time to ensure that employment initiatives have a medium and longer term goal and have good prospects of sustainability.

In Sri Lanka, the ILO has a number of relevant ongoing technical cooperation projects. These are the Jobsnet Programme, the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) Programme, the Programme building capacity for labour based equipment supported approaches (LBES) and the programme for the elimination of child labour (IPEC). The solid partnerships already established through these with the Ministry of Labour, the Ceylon Chambers of Commerce, over 40 Business Development Service Organizations spread all over the country, the Sri Lankan Institute for Local Governments (SLILG) attached to the Ministry of Provincial Councils, and the National Child Protection Authority give easy entry points in all four proposed project components, and will make it possible to implement quick impact projects.

The ILO is also an active member of the UN Country Team and a close partnership has been developed with key agencies such as FAO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, WB, WFP, ADB. Considering it of key importance to build synergies with other agencies so as to achieve better and faster impact, the ILO is already involved in several joint programme initiatives.

General description of the project

The ILO response will have short/immediate-medium term as well as long term interventions. Each of these sets of interventions will be evidently linked so that the continuum of support from immediate and medium term livelihood recovery to longer term poverty reduction will be assured.

The current project proposal concentrates on the immediate response. This Quick Impact Projects (QIP) is a pilot “entry project” with a duration of 6 months, focusing on the most vulnerable areas and groups. It will address collective community needs and link beneficiaries needs and locations. It will also focus on reducing the vulnerabilities of women; youth; and disabled persons within an already obviously vulnerable population of displaced communities. Capacity building will be inherent, but the focus will be on quick action and immediate results, drawing on existing capacities to the extent possible, rather than on developing sustainability. The latter will receive greater emphasis in the medium term, although the programme will also ensure that its immediate interventions do not undermine currently sustainable development capacities and are in agreement with longer-term poverty reduction strategies and development priorities.
To enable quick action, existing ILO tools will be used, guidelines for establishing emergency public employment services; community based training modules, modules for integrated rural accessibility planning leading into labour based infrastructure construction and maintenance, etc. For most of these tools a Sri Lankan delivery capacity is in place.

Taking ground realities into consideration (political situation vis a viz the Northeast conflict), it seems appropriate to pilot the project in 2 districts and to base this on existing partnerships and presence of respective agencies. While this may be subject to further change tentative selection of districts are Hambantota, Batticaloa (or alternatively Trincomalee).

The project will address immediate employment friendly rehabilitation and reconstruction of essential community and public infrastructure

**Overall Objective**

To generate immediate employment opportunities for the most severely affected households, through strengthening the capacity of district and local government as well as the private sector and communities to rehabilitate essential infrastructure and revitalize the construction sector.

**Immediate objective**

Pilot project to provide employment opportunities for affected households through labour intensive rehabilitation of infrastructure

**Target:** 500 - 800 workers (with equal job access for men and women)

**Description**

This pilot project will immediately rehabilitate and operationalize limited basic community/ public infrastructure in the targeted areas through a cash for assets approach and involve implementation through both the communities as well as the private sector. While the basic approach will be to utilize labour-based technology, it is recognized that in the long term there will need to be an appropriate mix of equipment-based, (EBT) labour-based (LBT) and Labour-intensive (LIT) technologies in order that overall progress and effective coordination with related activities can be realized. The splits between the appropriate technologies will only be known after the detailed infrastructure needs assessment however this project will apportion the major component to a Labour-Intensive. The reason for this is that although Labour-based technologies have a more longer term and permanent role in the future recurrent public and community infrastructure construction and maintenance programmes, the LI which is envisaged as more of one-off operation will serve as a demonstration project for moving towards a labour based approach while also providing the much needed temporary employment to affected persons.
The programme will provide immediate short-term employment for large numbers of unskilled workers in pilot districts. The programme will emphasize the optimal use of local resources (labour and materials), the use of ILO local level planning methodologies which themselves will be closely linked to any Government initiative to improve general land-use planning and spatial relationships so as to rebuild infrastructure in improved in locations and zones reflecting current international town planning best practices.

This will be a truly integrated and composite programme of technical support, training, financial support and community based training in the planning operation and maintenance of essential utilities, using employment-friendly work methods. It is envisaged that the project will in effect spearhead the revival of these communities by (re) establishing the basic infrastructure for the local economies to be able to function effectively.

**ILO principles of decent work will apply in all workplaces.**

**Implementation**

The programme will be undertaken in partnership with UNOPS (responsible for logistics, administration, contract procurement and finance) and the ILO providing overall technical and managerial inputs to ensure high quality design, implementation and maintenance is achieved for the infrastructure works selected. The programme at community level will be implemented mainly with the Pradeshiya Sabas and the public works component will be largely implemented via the private sector. Capacity building through SLILG and to local contractors will be facilitated through this programme.

**Financial summary**

Labour-intensive programmes involve the use of labour and hand tools in a range of works selected largely from the general Menu 1 below and would provide at least 30,000 Workdays of temporary employment (60 days for 500 workers based on a daily wage or Task of USD3 plus USD4 per day for directly related operational costs including hand tools, and transport and technical supervision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Works category</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debris clearing</td>
<td>Removal of Tsunami building rubble, recycling of essential building materials, general clearing and opening up of basic access-ways</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural resource management/rehabilitation</td>
<td>Agriculture, land reclamation/desalinization, horticulture, nursery (re)establishment, agro-forestry,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watershed protection and soil conservation</td>
<td>Vegetative/shrub barriers in contours trenching, in-situ moisture conservation, silvi-pasture, afforestation, stream bank protection, drainage works, gully checking/stabilisation, flood protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land and sea retaining walls and terracing</td>
<td>Building and rebuilding of local stone retaining structures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural and historic sites rehabilitation</td>
<td>Site clearing, restoration works, national and community parks cleanup, trail construction and maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drainage and irrigation</td>
<td>Cleaning out of existing systems as well as (re)construction and maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roads and street works</td>
<td>Drainage works, short haul earthworks, greening works and routine maintenance, sidewalks cleaning and clearing and temporary repair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solid waste management</td>
<td>Street cleaning, drainage, waste collection, recycling and disposal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water collection and storage systems</td>
<td>Rainwater harvesting, wells and water tanks cleaning and rehabilitation, fish pond cleaning and rehabilitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water reticulation</td>
<td>Trenching activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electricity and telecommunications</td>
<td>Trenching for cable laying, clearing of easements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports fields</td>
<td>Development and maintenance</td>
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**Implementation partners:** At community level both the Pradeshiya Sabas and the private sector and for public works the private sector will be supported to undertake a significant role.

**Budget:** To be worked out in detail following the Infrastructure needs assessment so that the sub-components may be adjusted to reflect optimization of both immediate employment opportunities as well as immediate infrastructure rehabilitation priorities. **US$ 600,000**