

INDONESIA: Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Housing and Settlements (RRHS) in Aceh-Region

In our Newsletter No. 56 we reported on the Reconstruction Programmes “Housing and Human Settlements” and “Local Infrastructure” which was launched and financed by the Indonesian and German Governments in the aftermath of the tsunami and earthquake event. Since then some 6,100 houses were constructed, roads, drainage and social infrastructure rebuilt.



Ecological farming

The impact of the RRHS Programme, as well as that of other national and international programmes, on peace and stability of the coastal regions and the province is

evident. The hinterland, which was affected by the conflict raging in the province for more than thirty years and which left many communities in despair, was not included in similar programmes so far. In order to extend the positive impact, the fifth ‘Tranche’ of the RRHS Programme will carry the reconstruction programme into selected areas of the hinterland with the objective of contributing further to the stabilisation and consolidation the peace process in Aceh.

The additional ToR for ‘Reconstruction Measures in NAD Hinterland and Implementation of Livelihood Measures’ encompasses livelihood improvement measures in the agricultural sector foreseen until March 2009, thereby complementing the reconstruction activities in housing and infrastructure with an essential concept for ensuring further sustainability.

By revitalisation of ecological farming (coffee, cacao, spices, timber, fruit trees) along the foot-hills of the mountainous range of Sumatra stable income is generated

for the population which also takes the pressure from the primary forest growing on the top of the mountain ranges. In addition, this livelihood component supplements very well our District Health Programme which is also located in the Hinterland (see Newsletter No. 48) thus adding up to an unique and comprehensive peace-keeping approach.



Reconstruction of houses

Also in this fourth phase of the RRHS programme which is lead by Mr. Axel Kiene, we work together with our local partners MAMAMIA (NGO) and PT DARENA.

CENTRAL AMERICA: Investment Programme for Natural Resources

In July 2008, the consortium formed by GITEC and CATIE (Centre for Tropical Agricultural Research and Training) was entrusted by the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), based in El Salvador, to carry out the Feasibility Study for the preparation of the “Investment Programme for the Cultural Use and Integrated Management of Natural Resources in Central America”.

The 4-year programme, to be financed through KfW with a grant fund totalling 6.0 million EUR, will have the likely support of GTZ. It shall be realized through the financing of small investment projects (from EUR 5,000 to 35,000) in combination with the strengthening of management capacities of indigenous and smallholders’ organisations at grass root level, which aim to protect and manage their natural resources through sustainable traditional practices.



Costa Rica: Valle del Río Reventazón

The programme’s focus will be on participation and facilitation, looking to achieve a consensus between CCAD as executing and fund administration agency, and its two promoting agencies CICA (Indigenous Council of Central America) and ACICAFOC (Coordinating Association of Indigenous and Smallholder Communal Agroforestry in Central America). Suitable projects will be identified in a participatory

approach for each of the five local areas defined for the programme: 1) protection and conservation; 2) sustainable tourism; 3) sustainable production and marketing; 4) strengthening of organisations and their management capacity, and 5) cultural recuperate.

The study was realized between August and November 2008 by a multidisciplinary team coordinated by Dipl. rer. pol. Holger Merks of GITEC. The works were done in close cooperation with the regional offices of CICA and ACICAFOC in Costa Rica and in consultation with their organizations at grassroot level in each of the seven countries which comprise Central America. The draft final report was handed over in early November 2008, and used for the evaluation of the programme proposal by a KfW mission visiting the region in mid November.

REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE: Access to Finance Challenge Fund (AFCF)

The Mozambican financial sector and particularly the banking sector is highly concentrated, evidenced by the fact that the five largest banks account for more than 90 percent of total deposits generated in the country. The larger commercial banks, normally not serving the poorer strata of the population, are complemented by microfinance institutions and banks dedicated to microfinance applying special technologies in order to provide financial services to lower income groups. As a matter of fact, Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) are financially weaker than commercial banks and dispose of limited financial resources for major investments and research and development efforts. The introduction of new products and technologies often requires the implementation of pilot phases and costly start-up financing. This may present a barrier to entry for several MFIs but may be overcome in case co-financing is temporarily provided.

In October 2008, GITEC was awarded by the Department of Banking Supervision (DBS) of the Central Bank of Mozambique with the set-up and operation of the Access to Finance Challenge Fund (AFCF), financed through KfW. The

AFCF will provide matching grant funds (EUR 1 million) in order to narrow the aforementioned gap between commercial banks and MFIs and contribute to an inclusive financial system. In particular, the AFCF aims to stimulate the microfinance sector by providing financial support for the introduction of International Financial Reporting Standards (Component 1), the improved access to the National Payment System (Component 2) and the creation and implementation of pro-poor oriented financial products (Component 3).



Central Bank of Mozambique, Standard Bank and Socrema Microfinancing Bank

In November 2008, GITEC, in cooperation with its local partner, started the imple-

mentation of the project by elaborating an operation manual for the AFCF. This manual specifies the conditions for access to co-financing and lays out procedures for fund application and disbursements. The AFCF has been launched officially in the beginning of December 2008 on a seminar where the manual was presented to all beneficiaries, the country's leading microfinance institutions and banks interested in downscaling their financial service to lower income groups.

The consulting team is composed of three international short term experts, responsible for the conceptual design of the AFCF, and of two national experts who will be responsible for the operation of the Fund. The AFCF is embedded into the Financial Sector Technical Assistance Project (FSTAP), implemented jointly by bilateral and multilateral donors, among them the World Bank, African Development Bank, GTZ, KfW, DFID and SIDA and is, thus, well aligned with Paris Declaration aiming at improved donor coordination and enhanced ownership of governmental institutions. The AFCF, now open for applications, will have a duration of 14 months.

INDIA: Rajasthan Minor Irrigation Improvement Project

The "Rajasthan Minor Irrigation Improvement Project" (RAJMIIP) is implemented by the Water Resources Department of Rajasthan and financed by a loan provided by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

Rajasthan, the largest state of India is one of its driest. A significant part of its land is desert, and the state faces recurring droughts. It has only 1.15% of the total water resources of the entire sub-continent. This, coupled with the limited and uncertain rainfall in the region, results in chronic water shortage of the state.



Traditional village reservoir falling dry

Apart from large and medium scale irrigation projects, uncountable small

reservoirs were constructed over the past decades typically consisting of a dam (< 15 m in height) and a simple distribution system commonly referred to as "Minor Irrigation Projects" (MIPs).

However, the facilities had been provided and were managed by the Government of Rajasthan; normal wear and tear, lack of budget for maintenance but also the neglect by users have led to severe deterioration of irrigation infrastructure to an extent that makes cultivation of dry season crops a hazardous gamble.

The effects of chronic drought conditions are (a) migration of rural population to urban centres - adding further strain to the already tense social atmosphere, (b) reduced food security, and (c) ever progressing desertification.

The project aims at improving the livelihood of farmers by rehabilitating and improving existing minor irrigation infrastructure; at the same time encouraging them to form Water User Associations, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility starting with participation in rehabilitation design procedures, contributing in cash and in kind to its

realization and ultimately leading to sustainable operation and maintenance.

The 5-year project will be financed by a loan of about EUR 75 million covering the four water conservation zones of Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota and Udaipur.



Diversion structure

For implementation, GITEC has formed an association with three local consulting companies. The team of 16 international and national experts is headed by Mr. H. Reinhardt, M. Sc., which commenced its services on 15 April 2008.

MALAWI: Health Facility Assessment (HFA)

GITEC has been awarded to undertake a HFA study in Malawi financed by the World Bank.

The purpose of the health facility survey was to assess the progress toward programme targets within the framework of the Health Sector Reform, to prioritize and plan strategies for improving the quality of care at outpatient health facilities.

The general objectives included:

- Determination of the quality of care delivered to sick children, including counselling;
- Assess health workers skills and knowledge;

- Assess availability of health system supports for quality care;
- Assess caretakers understanding of care to provide to children at home and their satisfaction with the care provided at the health facility.

The survey design comprised an improved questionnaire with section on diagnosis, equipment, and status of the health infrastructures, as well as an exit interview to the caretakers. Four field teams consisting of four people each visited 144 health facilities in all three regions of Malawi within a time frame of five weeks. Furthermore, a countercheck of laboratories concerning the thick film analysis for malaria was added.

The results were disclosed in a meeting in the Ministry of Health and will be published soon.



Participants of the meeting

REPUBLIC OF CROATIA: Croatian Roads Performance Maintenance Contracts (PMC)

In November 2008, Hrvatske ceste d.o.o. (HC) / Croatian Roads Ltd. has entered into a consulting contract with GITEC to assist with the development and implementation of the routine maintenance programme for the roads administered by HC. The project is financed from the Germany-EBRD Technical Cooperation Fund II of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology.

The assignment is a process consultancy with the aim of assisting HC and the contracting sector with the preparation and introduction of the new form of routine maintenance contracts and implementation of a pilot-project. The assignment will be carried out in two phases: In the first phase, GITEC will review current procedures and contracts used for implementation of the routine maintenance programme on roads administered by HC and recommend how to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of existing traditional contracting out of routine road maintenance and by using new performance-based routine maintenance contracts. This includes the comparison of the current practice and experience of HC with the experience of PMC for routine road maintenance work in other countries with similar conditions as Croatia. In order to accompany and support this process, GITEC will undertake workshops for relevant members of staff of HC, and representatives of the contractors in Croatia, to increase awareness of the use of performance-based road maintenance contracts, the potential effects and benefits of their adoption. Based on his findings, the Consultant, in close cooperation with HC, will assess the feasibility of the application of PMC in Croatia and the feasibility of the

pilot-project. If found feasible, he will draft tender / contract documents for procurement of a PMC for the pilot-project for works included in the routine road maintenance programme.

The objective of the second phase is contracting of the pilot-project, monitoring of its implementation, and the final evaluation of its effects. Again, this will be accompanied by providing advice and training of HC employees and contractors during implementation of the pilot project.

While the duration of Phase 1 will be six months, the start and duration of Phase 2 will

depend on a satisfactory outcome of Phase 1. It is expected that the pilot project would have the duration of three to five years.

GITEC's Project Team is composed of an expatriate Project Manager/Team Leader, a local Maintenance Expert, and an expatriate Contracts Engineer, who will also be responsible for organisational and administrative aspects. Optional short-term inputs may be provided by an expatriate Pavement Maintenance / Training Expert and a local Legal Expert. Administrative and Technical Support will be provided by a Secretary and a Local Junior/Assistant Engineer for Road Condition Data Processing.



Road inspection during field visit in Istria

BANGLADESH: Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project

Since February 2004, GITEC has been implementing the Institutional Support & Training (IST) Component of the Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (RIIP), a cooperation project of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), co-financed through ADB, KfW and GTZ. The project aims at improving options for economic activities of the rural poor in the project area through the development of 1,226 km of rural roads, 68 markets/growth centres, 89 boat landing sites, 100 Union Council office buildings, and other rural infrastructure. The project area, i.e. the divisions of Barisal (6 districts) and Khulna (10 districts) has been selected due to the comparatively higher incidence of poverty.

As the first phase of the IST Component has come to an end in December 2007, GTZ has extended the services of GITEC until June

2009, to match the RIIP implementation period under Financial Cooperation. In the second phase, more emphasis is being placed on strengthening of local self-governance at union level (by working with 105 instead of 32 unions), while the activities on improving road maintenance management and supporting the economic and social development of the rural population are continuing. Like in the first phase, the IST project team is guided by the GITEC Principal Advisor, Dipl.-Wirtschaftsing. R. Kuhnle.



Shop owner in Women Market Section of improved market/growth centre

Turkey: Feasibility Study for the Project Sewage Disposal Fethiye II



Wastewater Treatment Plant of Belcegiz (Ölüdeniz)

In early October 2008, a contract was concluded between the Municipality of Fethiye and the Association led by Sachsen Wasser GmbH and comprising GITEC and Dolsar for consulting services for elaboration of a Feasibility Study on extension of the sewerage system for Fethiye and surrounding villages, which shall include:

- Review and evaluation of available data
- Environmental review and hydro-geological study

- Preliminary design of pre-selected variants
- Financial and institutional analyses of the municipality and of FESKI
- Cost estimates
- Economic and financial project analyses
- Implementation and operation concept
- Risk analyses

Since the municipality of 60,000 inhabitants includes also holiday villages with some 17,000 beds, environmental concerns are on high priority.

NEWS:

As from 15 September Mr. Andreas Oberländer, who has been successfully working for more than 3 decades with GITEC, has been promoted to Managing Director of GITEC thus sustaining GITEC's future development. Dr. Gert Bergen shall continue to act as General Manager ***** GITEC is proudly looking back again on a successful and prosperous year, with new projects and new Financing Agencies e.g. JBIC, EBRD, and the Provincial Government of Chongquin.

At the end of this year

we would like to thank our Clients and Partners

for the confidence and effective cooperation we have enjoyed,

and to express our best wishes for a successful 2009!

GITEC® Consult GmbH

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