The 13th ASEAN and Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies

Employment Promotion in Disaster Settings: Reflection on Recent Experiences in Asia

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Outline

1   ILO's assistance in post-disaster recovery

2   Findings from recent disaster response experiences

3   Gaps and challenges

1. ILO Assistance in Post-disaster Recovery

Technical Assistance and Policy Advice

Immediate response (0 – 3 month)

- Emergency job creation through infrastructure rehabilitation work
- Ensuring OSH at rehabilitation sites
- Providing short-cycle skills training
- Assisting in carrying out post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA)

Recovery (4 – 24 month)

- Providing skills and entrepreneurship training
- (Re)building community-based labour institutions
- Supporting community contracting for post-disaster reconstruction

1. ILO Assistance in Post-disaster Recovery

Ongoing research on:

1) Post-disaster employment and livelihood recovery measures

- Focusing on employment-related disaster recovery efforts both by the public and private sectors
- Case study countries: India, Japan, Nepal and the Philippines

2) Needs and challenges by trade union members in post-Haiyan Philippines

- Examining specific challenges faced by disaster-affected trade union members
- Identifying potential capacity development support for enhancing disaster resilience among workers

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2. Findings

1) Building a response mechanism

- Placing a labour ministry or agency in charge of the employment strategy allowed it to champion a job-based recovery with inputs from the intra-sectoral committee.

- Social safety mechanisms such as employment insurance and employment adjustment subsidies were proven to be effective and useful to secure jobs of disaster-affected workers in Japan. Developing a comprehensive social security system leads to building disaster resilient society.

2. Findings

2) Designing a response strategy

- Detail data and information on damage, economic structure and demographic trends need to be quickly collected and analysed to formulate effective measures. Data needs to be disaggregated by gender and data on people with disabilities should be available so that interventions can attend specific needs of various social groups.

- The overall framework and concrete measures on employment need to be formulated in phases so that employment recovery strategies can attend different needs emerging at response, recovery and reconstruction phases in post-disaster society.

2. Findings

3) Rebuilding businesses

- <u>Quick information dissemination on policy direction, overall framework and measures by the government</u> is a key factor for employers or self-employed to determine how best to restart their business operations.

- Early recovery of business operation in key industries in neighbouring but not severely affected areas can become a driving force for recovering the local economy.

- <u>Helping business resume is one of the most effective contributions to economic recovery</u>. This underscores the importance of business continuity planning (BCP), disaster insurance and strategic sectoral support by government, as well as support for enterprise development, especially for micro enterprises.

3. Gaps and Challenges

1) Coordination among recovery actors

2) Inclusive reconstruction

3) Workers' roles and needs

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Thank you

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