

AISDevelopment Corporate Capabilities in Post Conflict Livelihood Development

AISDevelopment, LLC (AISD), is a small, woman-owned HUB Zone company, specializing in market-oriented small and medium enterprise (SME) development, and sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and coastal resource management, with a focus on rural poverty alleviation and market development. AISD services are aimed at linking communities to markets to create economic and social opportunity by leveraging private sector business models that integrate community development, competitiveness and sustainable use of natural resources.

AISD and its principals have worked in conflict and post conflict environments and addressed livelihood challenges from the perspective of both humanitarian and economic development organizations, in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Croatia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iraq, Honduras, Kosovo, Panama, and Uganda. Some of AISD's recent assignments include:

- **Afghanistan:** For DAI's Afghanistan Alternative Livelihoods Program (ALP)--aimed at strengthening the Afghan Government's capacity to address the problem of illicit poppy cultivation by promoting improved economic opportunities and the diverse regional economic growth--AISD conducted an assessment of the poultry sub-sector in Eastern Afghanistan and designed a sector development strategy with sector stakeholders identifying specific areas for critical donor interventions. (2006)
- **Banda Aceh:** For an international relief organization, International Relief and Development (IRD), AISD conducted an assessment of livelihood opportunities in the former conflict areas of Aceh, aimed at providing jobs to ex-combatants of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM – Gherkin Aceh Media). The assessment was done in conjunction with a broader assessment of post-tsunami coastal livelihoods recovery and development opportunities in Aceh. (2005)
- **Sri Lanka:** For IRD, AISD conducted an assessment of tsunami affected communities in Sri Lanka, from Galle to Valaichenai (south of Trincomalee), aimed at identify opportunities for project assistance to support recovery of coastal communities and fishing industries. AISD met with representatives of local governments, community groups, relief organizations and the local fisheries industry, and identified a range of project investments that were presented to Government of Sri Lanka, USAID and other donors. (2005)
- **Iraq:** For USAID/Iraq, AISD designed, organized and facilitated a series of three workshops in Amman, Jordan to support the \$70 million Iraq Community Action Program (ICAP) to create jobs through community participation in reconstruction and development, which was based on the CRDA model. Participants were representatives of five non-government organizations: Mercy Corps, International Reconstruction and Development (IRD), ACDI/VOCA, Save the Children, and Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF). Each workshop had a different focus:
 - Startup, June 2003—Present USAID's expectations for the program; discuss implementation, coordination and security issues; assign geographic responsibilities; determine criteria for selecting communities; and establish common performance indicators

- Six Month Review, November 2003-- Review progress and performance to date and identify issues and lessons learned that will have an impact on the strategy for the remaining program implementation.
 - Next Steps, February 2004--Address program planning for follow on funding, including applying lessons learned, incorporating new funding priorities and earmarks, and addressing the implications of the transition to Iraqi sovereignty in June 2004.
- **Iraq:** For DAI, AISD provided expert advice to the Iraq Marshlands Restoration Project (IMRP), on hatching and rearing of a native species, *Barbus Sharpeyi*, to support revival of local livelihoods.

AISD's principals have led design and implementation efforts in conjunction with government officials and community groups for a number of local and regional development and competitiveness efforts focused on enterprise development and post conflict reconstruction:

- **Albania:** Design team to develop a project focused on agribusiness export and SME competitiveness. (BankWorld, 2003)
- **Bosnia:** Design of a \$30 million White House-mandated assistance program for the Federation of Bosnia and Hercegovina to strengthen the negotiated settlement and promote ethnic reconciliation between Bosnian Croats and Bosnian Muslims through participatory community development and reconstruction activities. (USAID, 1994-1995)
- **Kazakhstan:** Design and implementation of a DOD-funded project to identify alternative economic development strategies in defense-based regions of East Kazakhstan. In Kazakhstan, Ms. Ciepiela led a DOD-funded project to develop regional economic development strategies for former defense based region of East Kazakhstan. The assignment involved identifying and evaluating a range of possible local manufacturing and agribusiness clusters, with a focus on SME development, and developing a common action plan among the government, business and donors to support development of the clusters. (CARANA 1999-2000)
- **Russia:** Design, implementation, and oversight of over \$15 million for regional development initiatives in the Russian Federation, including activities in small business finance, land and real estate market development, investment promotion, public finance, health, civil society strengthening, and others. The program focused on the more progressive regions of Russia to design and implement integrated local economic development programs. The approach involved the concentration of an integrated set of technical and partnership activities in three regions, developed and implemented in close collaboration with regional officials under a formal framework. (USAID, 1996-1999)
- **Uganda:** Under a USAID funded competitiveness project, AISD facilitated the development of a cluster working group for the *fisheries* sector, comprising public, private and non-governmental representatives, to conduct a competitive assessment of the fisheries sector and develop a national strategy. AISD's efforts resulted in a national level commitment to the introduction of commercial aquaculture as the strategic cornerstone of the sector's competitiveness and environmental sustainability strategy. AISD successfully introduced new value added products to the sector and brought in Asian buyers to test the products. As a result of this work, strong private sector interest exists in investing in community based aquaculture and the GOU and other donors are taking steps to put regulations in place and support research and development. (CARANA, 2000-2002)