



# ► ILO - Ethiopia

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The International Labour organization (ILO) and Government of Ethiopia (GOE) have many years of collaborations, in the area of Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP).

The ILO has supported the government in introducing the application of a well-designed Employment-Intensive Approach (EIA), developing planning and implementation tools, capacity building interventions particularly relating to technical training institutions, and most recently, promoting partnership between government's and emerging entrepreneurs in the delivery of road works.



## PROSPECTS – Employment Intensive Investment Program (EIIP)

### Key points

► **“Improving the quality of roads network through cobblestone where many unemployed youth can engage is a big support in the road sector” Somali Region Roads & Transport Bureau.**

► **“Apart from one-step contribution in advancing the beauty of the town, this particular project will enable us to learn a lot on the advanced joint monitoring and evaluation system in the infrastructure sector as a member of the technical working group.” The Deputy mayor of city council of Kebribeyah**

The extreme low labour productivity, caused by unemployment translates into low incomes and limits the potential for economic growth in many African countries.

One approach that could create employment is the adoption of more labour-based methods in public infrastructure investment projects, like feeder roads. Such employment creation can ensure high and sustainable economic growth with a significant impact on poverty.

Due to neglect, mismanagement and lack of adequate maintenance, the feeder roads network in Jijiga and Kebribeyha town of Somali regional state constrained mobility, significantly raise vehicle operating costs, increase accident rates and their associated human and property

costs, and aggravate poor health condition among the communities in the town.

This is the situation where, the ILO in Ethiopia in partnership with Somali regional government steps in with the long term vision of creating and promoting labour based decent work opportunities in the region under PROSPECTS - Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP).

Between March-August 2019, the ILO conducted assessments in Ethiopia to identify initial local infrastructure and community asset development needs and priorities in the target areas of Somali, Afar and Tigray Regions. Based on the assessment, the ILO identified potential scope and technical areas of possible Employment Intensive Investment

Program /EIIP/ interventions to increase labour based employment through public investment.



Building the capacities of local contractors aligns with the promotion of fundamental principles and rights at work - labour standards, Ethiopian labour law, social protection, freedom of association and collective bargaining, Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), as well as support inclusion of vulnerable communities, while creating productive community assets – the maintenance and rehabilitation of rural roads are being a major one.

Based on the above identified major activities, with the financial support from the Government of the Kingdom of Netherlands, the ILO - PROSPECTS Ethiopia project has allocated funds towards maintenance and spot improvement of 1.07 Km cobblestone roads in close partnership with Somali region road and transport bureau (SRRTB), Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), Somali region Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs (BOLSA) and the city council of Jijiga and Kebribeyah town.

Somali regional state roads & transport bureau deputy head and road sector manager Abdulkadir Beshir (Eng) expressed his feeling during site handover event saying *“Usually, due to lack of adequate follow up, budget constraints and other factors most of our road networks have showed significant defects. It is a good thing to bring labor-based project that will support unemployed youth labor force to maintain feeder roads in the town.”*

Furthermore, *“Improving the quality of roads network in the city through cobblestone where many unemployed youth can engage is a big support for the town especially on the road sector”* Abdulkadir added.

According to Abdulkadir, the project contribute much in building the capacity of local contractors. *“Local contractors will build their capacity, usually they may not get such opportunity as a result they disappear from the market. But, now those small local contractors will engage in such activity and improve their skills and capacity.”* He concluded.

*“We are happy to host such massive labor based and engaging projects. It is necessary for our city council and we welcome you for more project intervention in the town. The city council will benefit more from this project in terms of small-scale job creation, infrastructure development and other*

*related issues. So we are happy to work together further.”* Said Eng Amran, Director of mayor of the city council of Jijiga.

The Deputy mayor of city council of Kebribeyah, Abdi Eydid on his part said, in promoting the peaceful coexistence and interaction among the host, IDPs and refugee community, *“the project will enhance the infrastructure development of the town to revive the economic and social integration among the public at large.”*



Abdi Eydid, Deputy mayor of city council of Kebribeyah

**Apart from one-step contribution in advancing the beauty of the town, this particular project will enable us to learn a lot on the advanced joint monitoring and evaluation system in the infrastructure sector as a member of the technical working group. Abdi Eydid concluded.**

Abdi Abdulahi is a general manager of Abdi Abdulahi Construction Company – one of the local construction company who engages in the road maintenance, according to him, the project will have a dual benefit for the community of towns.

*“Primarily as the project focuses on labor based investment, it has a paramount importance in creating job opportunities where both refugees and host communities can participate which will bring peace, harmony and cooperation between refugee and local community in the town.”* He said.

*“In the second place, small contractors didn’t considered themselves as a professional entity due to lack of engagement and continues capacity building. But now we have got capacity building training from the ILO and will improve our profession. Now we are in the era of technology and skill transfer therefore it is a priority to acquire knowledge to accommodate massive unemployed labor in the town.”* Abdi Abdulahi concluded.



*Abdi Abdulah - General Manger*

Selected local contractors from Jijiga and Kebribeyah town attended a two day long basic refreshing training and discussion on preparation of contract document, computing unit rates build-up of identified work activities and rates and contract prices of packaged works that will enhance their skills.

Furthermore, implementing partners have also received orientation on the purpose and objective of project implementation and the ILO’s role and the need to cooperate with key stakeholders including the establishment of a Technical Working Group.

The project is a trial contract aiming to create employment opportunity and gain practical knowledge on Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) activities and could be seen as a practical demonstration of contractors trained mid-August 2020.

Based up on their performance and following Phase-II contractors training, the implementing contractors will undergo in a competitive bidding.

## About the project

The “PROSPECTS partnership for inclusive jobs and education for forcibly displaced persons and host communities in Ethiopia” is the Government of the Kingdom of Netherlands funded initiative among the IFC, ILO, UNICEF, UNHCR, and the World Bank, to support host communities and forcibly displaced persons addressing the distinct needs and expectations of youth and women through equitable and inclusive interventions.

PROSPECTS Ethiopia operates with three main pillars: Education and Learning, Protection and Inclusion, and Employment with Dignity, in which the Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) plays a key role for value chain development.

ENDS.

See More in Pictures Below



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