

Project Briefing Note

Youth Employment for Sustainable Development

Introduction

Despite the sustained economic growth in the last few years, Kenya is still faced with acute socio-economic challenges including unemployment and poverty that is threatening to derail its efforts to achieve national as well as the millennium development goals. The Youth shoulder the blunt of these challenges with limited livelihood opportunities.

It is estimated that 64% of unemployed persons in Kenya are youth and only 1.5% of these have formal education beyond secondary school level. Moreover, over 92% have no vocational or professional skills training and therefore have limited chances of fully participating in the labor market.

The Government of Kenya acknowledges that poverty, unemployment and prevailing social imbalances are the most pervasive problems that the country is confronted with and it is committed to a broad-based policy reforms and programmes meant to address these challenges. These government initiatives were also supported by several development partners.

The 'Youth Employment for Sustainable Development' (YESD) is a joint initiative of the International Labour organization and the governments of Kenya and Japan. The YESD is intended to empower young women and men to participate in addressing the teething socio-economic challenges in their communities through providing them with marketable skills, decent jobs and business opportunities.

The YESD will also focus on winning the youth away from violence and conflict by providing them with alternative livelihoods. This in line with ILO/AU/IGAD Employment for Peace, Stability and Development Strategy, which calls for a holistic approach to employment as key to poverty alleviation.

Development Objective

To establish viable MSEs owned by the youth to build their involvement and contribution towards realizing sustainable socio-economic, political and environmental development in Kenya

Specific Objectives

- Provide business development support to emerging youth owned SMEs
- Create employment opportunities for unemployed youth in the urban and rural Kenya
- Enhance the capacity of implementing agencies through knowledge transfers and skills upgrading
- Initiate dialogue and build the capacity of relevant Government bodies on Green Jobs as a means of addressing the impact of climate change

Outputs

- 100 Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), owned by up to 2500 young men and women, on Cobblestone (CS) paving develop;
- 30 Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), owned by up to 600 young men and women, on “Do-nou” technologies develop.
- Training curriculum and training materials developed for CS and Do-nou technologies as well as green jobs;
- 70,000 person-days of employment created

Cobblestone

Cobblestone' is a term give to a naturally occurring rounded stone found in river beds or stone cut/chiseled to the required size and used for road paving.

Cobblestones (stone sets) form a very durable pavement (top layer of a road, walkways) provided the lower layers have been constructed to the required quality.

The Cobblestone paving technology is new to Kenya and has vast potential in improving urban and rural infrastructure. Experiences in the neighboring countries have shown that the technology is a cheaper alternative to conventional paving techniques is relatively simple to implement and embraced by the private sector and the general public. Some benefits of the Cobblestone technology include that it:

- Is labour-intensive which creates lots of job opportunities;
- Inculcates a sense of hard work among the youth and community at large;
- Can be source of income for the target community and injects cash in to the local economy;
- Provides marketable skills to the youth;
- Improves access and leaving environment in poorer areas in urban areas;
- Enhances local business and uplifts land and property value, and
- Reduces environmental damages such as dust, soil erosion.

Do-nou Technology

“Do-nou” is Japanese word that means wrapping soil in a gunny bag. “Do-nou” Technology involves use of gunny bags filled appropriately with either sand, farm soil, gravel and the opening properly secured. “Do-nou” itself, has high bearing capacity. Under the right conditions, the bearing capacity of a Do-nou can reach up to 250 kN (25.5 ton). Do-nouis commonly used for:

- Raising embankments to prevent floods;
- Construction of temporary structures after disasters and
- Reinforcing buildings' foundations

It is also ideal for emergency and routine maintenance of rural and urban roads and drainage structures.

Do-nou technology has a great potential for creating productive employment in the infrastructure sector. The Do-nou component will be undertaken in collaboration with Community Road Empowerment (CORE), which is an International NGO registered in Japan (2007) and Kenya (2008).

Project Beneficiaries

The project is part of ILO's technical assistance to the Roads Sub-sector in Kenya. The operational areas of the project initially will include Northern and Rift valley Provinces and Nairobi. The direct beneficiaries of the project will be:

- Young women and men selected from the project area;
- Ministry of Roads (MoR), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MOYAS), Ministry of Labor (MOL) and Road Agencies (particularly Kenya Rural Roads Authority and Kenya Urban Roads Authority);
- Vulnerable Communities in the rural and urban areas, and
- Private sector mainly small scale entrepreneurs.

Institutional Framework

The project will be implemented by the MoR and ILO with full participation and support of relevant government institutions, ILO constituents and key stakeholders in the infrastructure sector. The ILO team attached to the MoR is responsible for the day to day coordination and monitoring of the project.

In addition, a Project Oversight and Steering Committees will be established to oversee the project activities.

YESD Project Strategy

- Rights-based approach be adopted during the entire programme cycle
- Promote the use of Employment Intensive technology
- Promote peace building through Empowering the Youth

