



► ILO EIIP Brief Ring Road Project Bamenda

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Implementing activities to support the employability of young people through the EIIP approach and to create jobs for young people within the framework of the support Programme for the Transport Sector - Phase III: Construction of national road no. 11 - Ring Road in the Northwest Region.

News brief on the implementation of Employment Intensive investment programme (EIIP) in Bamenda Northwest Region of Cameroon.

Key points

- The International Labour Office and the Government of the Republic of Cameroon signed a cooperation agreement for the implementation of activities to support the employability of young people through the EIIP Approach and to create jobs for young people within the framework of the support Programme for the transport sector - phase III: construction of national road no. 11 - Ring Road in the Northwest Region.
- This news brief aims to provide information on one of the activities the project just completed and to describe how it is expected to impact progress.

Update on activities

The informal sector in Cameroon employs nearly 90% of Cameroon's active workforce and contributes about 50% of its GDP. It is dominated by small-scale production units, especially in services (36%), commerce (35.2%), and small industry (28.4%). Because of limited job creation in the formal sector, weak enforcement & high compliance costs, the informal sector retains many people.

In the crisis-affected region of the North West Region of Cameroon, informal workers typically lack contracts, health insurance, pension contributions, legal protection, etc and this makes the sector prone to decent work indicator violations. Young people are at the centre of this especially with many of them not having any hand work. This vulnerability opens them up to accept whatsoever they find to do as a job and accepting any type of working conditions. To propose better options for the employability of young people in the North West Region of Cameroon, the EIIP project using `Chantier écoles` carried out the training of young people in the project Implementation Zone in the rehabilitation of local infrastructure. The rehabilitation of earth roads and the construction of open market sheds were the works retained in some beneficiary communities.

Each project site was carried out using an implementing partner that was recruited and equipped technically by the project team to train these youths. The local council provided to the partner the list of potential youths to be trained. Ensuring that all the youths have adequate PPEs, the implementing partner developed training sessions with the youths. At the end of the week the youths were given some stipend to motivate them. Some invested this into small saving schemes while others used it to settle their bills. At the end of the implementation process, assiduous youths were given certificates of end of apprenticeship. A total of 04 project sites have been implemented with a total of 265 young people trained and a total of about 10,215,000frs paid out as stipend.

The objective of the `Chantier écoles` sessions were, among others:

- To equip youths in the project implementation zone with market relevant technical and vocational skills aligned with EIIP activities.
- To increase the readiness of the youths for wage employment and self-employment.
- To offer short term paid employment to unemployed and underemployed youths through labour intensive works.
- To enable participants to gain hands-on, on-the-job experience in real infrastructure and community projects.
- To promote positive work attitudes, responsibility and civic engagement in the learners.
- To engage youths productively to reduce idleness, displacement pressure, and involvement in risky activities.



Trainees in one of the sites moulding the carriage way under the supervision of the implementing partner engineer.

Focus of this brief

This brief is to present the training youths are benefiting from in the project and the impact that this is creating in their lives and their respective communities.

The rehabilitation of close to 3 km of roads in two council areas saw the training of youths on road maintenance techniques using the labour based approach. They were drilled on:

Module 1: Organization of road project Site, Module 2: Creating and cleaning lateral evacuation structures, Module 3: Construction of box culvert and masonry gutters, Module 4: Treatment of Critical points on carriageway, Module 5: Social and Environmental protection

Then 03 other sites trained youths using the construction of open market sheds and were trained on the following: Module 1: Site Organization and Setting out, Module 2: Iron bending and Formwork, Module 3: Mounting of Pillar, Beam and Roof, Module 4: Block moulding, Building & Plastering, Module 5: Social and Environmental Protection

From the 03 road maintenance works done, the communities were able to experience a great boost in the transportation of farm produce to the markets as well as increase in the circulation of vehicles and motor bikes all easing agricultural activities which remains a back bone to the economy of the localities. Then for the two open market sheds, there is already a clamour from potential users who are already anxious to put the infrastructure in use. Concerning the youths that have completed the training in these project sites, some have already been recruited to work with some road construction companies in town, while others have been employed to work in private building projects.



Group picture of the participants observing how to arrange a culvert using stones.

Testimony

Brenda, female trainee “Before I was selected to take part in this training, I was doing anything that I could lay hands on to make ends meet. I left secondary school and had no skill and couldn’t find anything to do and my parents too did not have money to support me learn a trade; this training was just the type of initiatives I was seeking for to gain a skill. At first, I was wondering whether I will cope but as the days went by, I saw myself passionately doing the tasks and learning. I am proud of the skills I have learned, and I know it’s going to help me a lot”.

John, male trainee “I want to express my profound gratitude to the ILO for the skills I have gained and the improvement that this has caused in my job search. I am a photographer, and business has not been very good. There are times I can be even for three weeks without having anything to do, but as I speak, since we completed the training and were handed the certificate of apprenticeship, I have been receiving offers for work and even turn down some offers. I am more than grateful, with this I will be able to raise some money to see what next to do with my life.



Construction of a gutter to facilitate the passage of vehicles into a church premises along the road stretch.



Female trainees championing the moulding of carriageway in one of the sites.

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