



► 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

Communal Road Committees in Cameroon play a local governance and maintenance role within the country's decentralized road-management framework.

Their responsibilities include:

- Identifying and prioritizing road maintenance needs within the council area, based on local knowledge of road conditions.
- Participating in planning and supervision of maintenance works, in collaboration with MINTP engineers and council technical services.

- Ensuring community involvement in maintaining “lifeline” roads essential for mobility, trade, and access to services.
- Supporting rapid interventions on deteriorating sections of roads, especially in areas where state resources are limited or slow to deploy.

While the Ministry of Public Works (MINTP) remains responsible for technical standards, engineering oversight and major road infrastructure, the local councils and local communal road committees take on:

- Day-to-day monitoring
- Local prioritization
- Community mobilization

This aligns with Cameroon’s decentralization policy and the Ministry’s strategy of technical partnerships with councils.



A cross section of the tools and equipment displayed

The ILO, in partnership with MINTP, organized a handing over ceremony of tools and equipment to 85 communal road committees (CRC) selected from the 17 councils along the ring road.

The objective of this activity was among others:

- To formally transfer ownership of the procured tools and equipment to the respective councils.
- To ensure transparency, accountability, and proper documentation of the distribution process.
- To strengthen the operational capacity of communal road committees for improved local road maintenance.

Focus of this brief

This distribution is linked the training of trainers' workshop of communal road committees from the 17 council areas, where 54 representatives (18 women and 36 men) were trained. They had the responsibility to train at least 7 communal road committees in their councils. A list of 05 active CRCs per council was then solicited to be supported with adequate tools and equipment.

Three 3 CRCs from Bamenda 2, Bamenda 3, Bafut, Belo, Fonfuka, Jakiri, Kumbo, Nkum, Misaje, Nkambe, Ndu, Tubah, Babessi, Ndop, Benakuma, Wum and Zhoa council area received items such as: spades, wheel barrows, digging axes, cutlasses, shovels, nail bars, forks, rakes, watering cans, buckets, hammers, sledge hammers, rain boots, complete work clothes, helmets, work glasses, leather gloves, plastic gloves, 1000 litres water tanks, and water pumps with all accessories. Among these tools was also a road maintenance guide developed by the ILO and MINTP to support these groups to work. In the manual, all road degradations have been identified, the manner of maintenance and tools required to do the work are detailly explained.



The representative of the Governor of the North West handing over to the Mayor of Zhoa Council

Presiding at the handing over ceremony, the representative of the governor of the North West Region praised the work done by the ILO in identifying and training these CRC members. He invited them to use judiciously the support and work with the councils to ensure that roads are maintained regularly.

The regional delegate for public works on his part explained to the mayors the importance of these CRCs as a catalyst to ensure the constant maintenance of secondary roads to ensure roads are passable all through seasons. He called on the councils to make use of these groups and the equipment received to ensure that the livelihoods of the community members are improved especially with the easy transportation of food from the farms to the markets.

Representing the ILO Director, the National Coordinator of the project thanked all present for their support in ensuring that roads are maintained. He reminded them that the communities will be 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. He ended up thanking the African Development Bank for the funding that is enabling councils to develop their road networks.

Testimony

Mayor Bafut “The ILO is investing a lot in our councils, and we are very happy for this. These equipment and tools that we are receiving today will go a long way to support the insertion of youths in the development of the municipality. We pledge to do our best to ensure that they are well used and the expected results attained.”

Council Development Officer Nkambe “I want to express my profound gratitude to the ILO for the skills we gained and the support we are receiving today to put the skills into practice. On behalf of the youths in my council area we say thank you and want to use this opportunity to continue to ensure that our roads are maintained with the support we will receive from the council”

Female Representative from Ndu “The Ndu council is glad to be retained to benefit from these tools and equipment. After the training we received for youths that saw the maintenance of 2km of road, here we are again receiving these. We have gained a lot of knowledge and experience in road maintenance, and this equipment will only help us do more. We say thank you from the depth of our hearts and pray your efforts pay off.”



The representative of the Governor on the North west handing over the tools and equipment to the representative of the mayor of Ndu.



The Regional Delegation of Public Works (in suit) handing over tools and equipment to the Mayor of Kumbo council (in red).

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Contact

T: +237 222 50 52 00
E: yaounde@ilo.org
Website : ilo.org/yaounde

Organisation internationale du Travail

Bureau de pays de l'OIT
Rue Nkol-Eton
BP 13 Yaoundé
Cameroun