



► 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 context 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 violations. Young people are particularly affected, facing prolonged periods without employment. This heightened vulnerability often compels them to accept any available work, frequently under poor or substandard 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, recruited and technically supported by the project team to train the youth. The local council provided the implementing partner with a list of potential youth to be trained. After ensuring that all the participants were adequately equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE), the implementing partner delivered training sessions to the youth. At the end of each week the youth received a stipend as a form of motivation. Some invested this income into small saving schemes while others used it to settle their bills. At the end of the implementation process, assiduous participants were awarded certificates of completion (end of apprenticeship). A total of four (04) project sites were implemented, training a total of 265 young people, with approximately 10,215,000 FCFA disbursed in stipends.



Carriage way moulded by trainees in Tubah Council and manually compacted

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

- To equip youth in the project implementation zone with market relevant technical and vocational skills aligned with EIIP activities.
- To increase the readiness of the youth for wage employment and self-employment.
- To offer short-term paid employment to unemployed and underemployed youth 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 youth productively to reduce idleness, displacement pressure, and involvement in risky activities.

Focus of this brief

This brief aims to present the completion of the first five (05) chantier-école sites. It presents the trainings received by the youth in the project area and the impact that this is creating in their lives and their respective communities.



Picture of market shed in Ndop under construction

From the 10 sites retained for this project, five (05) have been completed. These are: The rehabilitation of roads in Tubah council, Ndu Council and Fonfuka council, the construction of market sheds in Bamenda 3 and Ndop councils. Close to 5.5 km of roads in three council areas saw the training of youth 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.

About 500 young persons benefitted from this training, with 186 participants (including 30% of young women) receiving certificates of apprenticeship as proof of knowledge gained.

The two (02) other sites saw trained youth using the construction of open market sheds in Bamenda 3 and Ndop Councils, using 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.

Over 300 young people attended this training, with 138 receiving completion of apprenticeship certificates.

From the five (05) completed chantier-école works, 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 remain a backbone to the economy of the localities. Similarly, the construction of market sheds revitalizes local economies while creating inclusive spaces the encourage interaction, dialogue and peaceful coexistence.

Of the youth that have completed the training in these project sites, some have already been recruited to work with road construction companies in the region, while others have been employed to work in private building projects.

Testimony

Council Development Officer, Ndu Council, female

"This road that has been rehabilitated is among the ones we have been trying to secure funds for, to carry out its maintenance due to its importance to our people. Having it rehabilitated now and using the youth of the village is something we must commend. The trained youth will now have the competence to continue to carry out the maintenance of this road given the skills they have acquired. Another thing is the implication of women. For those who passed by when work was going on, you could admire how involved these women were in the process. It is a new dawn for the people of Ndu and road maintenance. We thank the ILO for making this possible and for accepting Ndu council to be among the beneficiary councils."

Mayor, Bamenda 3 Council, male

"I want to express my profound gratitude to the ILO for the choice of Bamenda 3 and the Ntahsen market construction. This is a market site that we have been developing and this building that has been added to what was existing has come to complement the market. We are working on providing electricity and water to the site to make the market functional. For the youth trained, I am impressed at how some of them have learned and worked in some of the local project sites in the council area, something no one could imagine would happen so quickly. From these, they will be able to take care of themselves and their families and this will deter them from delinquency."

Edwin, beneficiary, Fonfuka Council, male

"To tell you the truth we are so happy for the road maintenance work we have realised in this locality. This road has been a problem for users especially in the rainy season, but with the quality of work that we have done, I am convinced that we have constructed one of the most solid bridges in this council area. I thank the ILO for the knowledge that we have gained and the certificate. I can't remember when last I had one. We will continue to use the knowledge gained here to improve upon the roads in our area."



Construction of a bridge in Fonfuka Council



Moulding of carriageway in Ndu Council

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