



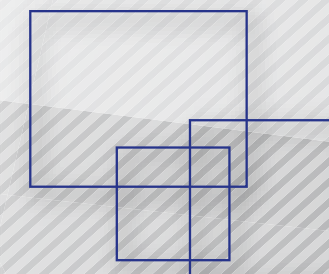
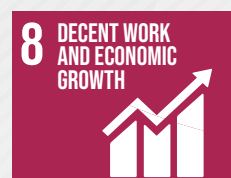
Ministry of Public Works
(MINTP)

CONTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT INTENSIVE INVESTMENT APPROACHES TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



DWT/CO - Yaounde

The case of ILO technical assistance
to the Ministry of Public Works as part of the Kumba–Mamfe
road development project



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FOREWORD



For almost ten years, Cameroon has adopted a strategic reference framework emphasizing two major elements for its move towards emergence: growth and employment. In addition to structural reforms aimed at modernizing the economy, the Strategy Paper for Growth and Employment (DSCE) has, among other things, given priority to infrastructure development, the modernization of public finances and the creation of decent jobs.

In the dynamic engaged, the Ministry of Public Works (MINTP), in charge of Engineering Works for the State, was at the confluence of these various stakes. According to the terms of Decree No. 2011/408 of 9 December 2011 organizing the Government, this ministry has the mission to ensure the technical supervision and control of the construction of infrastructures and public buildings as well as the maintenance and protection of national roads. Given the central role infrastructure play in production, economic development and the fight against poverty, MINTP is in thus charge of a core sector for the follow-up and support of economic growth, the fight against poverty, job creation and income distribution.

Owing to the facilities obtained after reaching the completion point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative in 2006, the Government, through the Ministry of Public Works, made significant efforts to implement an ambitious infrastructure development program. As far as road infrastructures are concerned, the strategy was about improving progressively the state of the existing network and the increase of the linear one to ease access to enclaved zones.

The Kumba / Mamfe road project implemented between 2014 and 2017 was part of this strategic framework. It consisted in the construction and rehabilitation of 150.86 km of asphalt concrete road, related developments including the rehabilitation of municipal roads, and a support component for job creation and the enhancement of the employability of young workers.

Employment plays the linking role between growth and poverty reduction; conscious of that, MINTP wishes to carry out, on this occasion, a pilot experiment to promote the Employment Intensive Investment (EII) approaches to capitalize and optimize the employment potential of its infrastructure projects. In this particular case, it resorted to the Technical Assistance of the International Labour Office (ILO), the United Nations Reference Agency for Youth Employment, for a specific strengthening of its capacities on the effective integration of job concerns into the implementation of one of the project components.

MINTP's desire was to combine the initial objective-the construction of a road infrastructure- with the related ambitions of direct creation of sustainable jobs and income distribution, the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, the valorisation of local resources and the reinforcement of youth employability. The ILO's Technical Assistance mission was a model initiative combining its primary concern for opening-up with the social, economic and environmental requirements. In doing so, this mission highlighted the effective capacity of the EII approaches to serve as a lever for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This successful experience is used in this booklet to illustrate the contribution of EII approaches to the achievement of this global agenda.

The Ministry of Public Works of Cameroon expresses its gratitude to technical and financial partners who made this initiative possible, specifically, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Central African States Development Bank (BDEAC) and the International Labour Office (ILO). It undertakes to capitalize as much as possible on the achievements of this pilot project, relying in particular on the technical skills acquired in the planning, execution and follow-up of HIMO projects.



INTRODUCTION

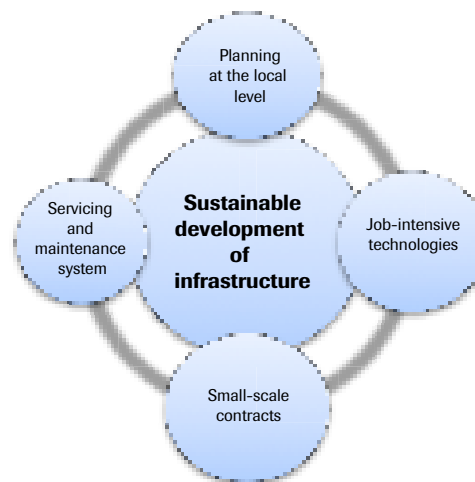
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a global commitment to ensure that every human being achieves his or her potential in dignity and equity, and a healthy environment. They aim to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, and eliminate discrimination and exclusion in a context of persistent social and economic challenges. The 17 SDGs, which entered into force in January 2016, are closely related to each other and are specified in 169 targets. They are a continuation of the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) that expired in 2015, whose good practices are to be capitalized on. However, new concerns such as climate change, peace and justice are addressed. SDGs are intended to be broader and more inclusive of the international community. They are ambitious and strive for a perfect integration of social, economic and environmental aspects.

The magnitude of the challenges to be met requires a multifaceted approach and the mobilization of all available levers to pursue and complete the progress already begun. Governments, civil society, the private sector and citizens are called upon to act in synergy to implement this agenda. In this regard, Employment Intensive Investment (EII) approaches appear to be a major asset in light of the diversity of their applications in various sectors with multiple stakeholders.

The Employment Intensive Investment (EII) Programme is a flagship programme of the International Labour Office (ILO) aiming to address unemployment and underemployment through public investment, typically in infrastructure development. EIIP reinforces and builds institutional and operational capacity of both public and private sector to provide productive and decent work that has an economic, environmental and social impact.

Infrastructure, environment-related and agricultural works can be carried out using a wide variety of work methods and equipment. As a technical solution to creating and maintaining assets – as well as generating decent jobs and income – EIIP's strategy is to promote employment-intensive approaches and local resource-based (LRB) technologies in delivering public investments – in particular for local infrastructure. EIIP interventions cover various sectors and subsectors, including rural roads, irrigation, water and soil conservation, community forestry, and cultural heritage.

The use of these approaches leads to an increase and improvement of public investments (roads, irrigation, micro-dams, housing, markets, schools, health centres, etc.). Therefore, they promote access to basic social services such as education and health and, through the construction of production infrastructure, access to long-term employment in other sectors such as agriculture or manufacturing.



Many countries, mainly in Africa and Asia, with ILO technical assistance, have experience in Employment Intensive Investment (EII) approaches, which have been used since the early 1970s and have evolved over time, both in their design and implementation, to focus more on sustainability and effectiveness. In Cameroon particularly, the first application was made in the ESP (Emergency Social Programme) following the 1994 devaluation, the purpose of which was to mitigate the social effects. Regarding the success recorded, the Government, with the ILO's technical assistance, launched several EII approaches pilot initiatives in the early 2000s, which culminated in 2008 with the integration of the EII approaches into the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) as a tool to improve the job creation.

In addition, various studies conducted by the ILO confirm that EII approaches compared to the HIEQ (High Intensity Equipment) programme: (i) significantly and rapidly generate more jobs; (ii) develop infrastructure to required standards; (iii) support the use of more appropriate technologies; (iv) reduce the need for foreign currency; (v) enhance local economic impact, generating more growth, employment and income; (vi) develop a variety of technical skills, including planning, negotiation, and decision-making skills; (vii) strengthen community ties.

All these assets give EII approaches a great capacity to make a substantial contribution to the achievement of the 2030 agenda driven by the SDGs. Goal by goal, this document analyses this contribution based mainly on stylized facts, lessons learned from the implementation of Employment Intensive Investment Programmes and available assessments of their economic, social and environmental impacts.

To illustrate this project, a specific experience from the ILO technical assistance pilot initiative at the Ministry of Public Works (MINTP) of Cameroon is highlighted. This was done in the framework of the project to support the creation of youth jobs and the strengthening of youth employability during the development of the Kumba-Mamfe road. For a little more than two years, the ILO assisted MINTP by organizing capacity-building sessions for local government officials, for SMEs, rural youths including women, about the rehabilitation of the 6 km of earth road (Kombone Bafaw -Lubange-Illey-Bikoro Bafaw) adjacent to the main road, through the use of EII approaches in the form of an on-site school¹.



Goal 1: No poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere



The targets of this goal are to eradicate extreme poverty (1.1), improve living conditions (1.2), develop social protection systems (1.3), promote access of the poor and vulnerable to economic resources, basic services, property and new technologies (1.4) and; build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters (1.5).

Most analysts of the nature and causes of poverty agree that income growth is essential if poverty is to be reduced and that persistent growth failures are accompanied by an equally persistent failure to combat poverty. The experience of labour-intensive projects around the world has revealed a real comparative advantage in income distribution. The share of salary costs is roughly 30% on average for labour-intensive projects, which is three to six times higher than for equipment-intensive technologies, where it only reaches 5 to 10%. By distributing more income, Employment Intensive Investment approaches then present themselves as an excellent channel for poverty reduction.

In addition, the use of Employment Intensive Investment approaches enhances the exploitation of local resources (supply of wooden stakes, earth bricks, rubble, sand, rock debris, pebbles, clay, etc.); activities in which many people from the most disadvantaged groups are involved. They thus benefit from the indirect effects of expenditure incurred in carrying out the work in addition to the effects of the increased demand generated by the higher incomes distributed to local workers; the latter are very often the first outlet for the meagre production and services of disadvantaged populations (Target 1.1).

Applied to housing, which is one of their main areas of expression par excellence, Employment Intensive Investment approaches contribute to the improvement of physical housing conditions (housing quality, housing environment, physical accessibility to certain basic facilities) that have beneficial effects on the living conditions of poor households and more particularly those in rural areas (Target 1.2).

In rural areas, where social protection systems are very often limited or non-existent, Employment Intensive Investment Programmes such as road maintenance provide a regular and predictable income, thus increasing income security and social protection (Target 1.3).

On another level, Employment Intensive Investment approaches contribute to the dissemination of international labour standards to employers and workers who often operate on the margins of these standards: through the systematization of employment contracts, the elimination of discrimination, the implementation of occupational health and safety measures, the continuous training of workers, the use of labour-intensive methods and the improvement of access by poor and vulnerable people to employment, income and professional skills acquisition (Target 1.4).

In rural areas, where jobs in other sectors are relatively scarce, the EII approaches provides an alternative, and thus strengthens the resilience of rural households to a variety of shocks. Very often, Employment Intensive Investment approaches provide income support to the poor after natural disasters and during the off-peak period of employment in seasonal agriculture (lean period). As a result, they significantly improve the resilience of poor people and reduce their exposure to agricultural risks and economic hazards such as speculation, falling prices and others (Target 1.5).



The job creation and enhancement of youth employability support project achieved alongside the construction works of the Kumba / Mamfe Road in Cameroon financed by the African Development Bank (ADB), contributed to the elimination of extreme poverty and the improvement of the living conditions of the population. Salaries paid to locally recruited workers were estimated at XAF 49,194,748 and income-generating activities were initiated. The work carried out has contributed to the opening-up of the South-West region of Cameroon, thus enabling a substantial reduction in transport costs and better access to markets (increased agricultural incomes) as well as to various basic needs (health, education, etc.).

In addition, the use of EII approaches during the project implementation has enabled the valorization and exploitation of local resources (supplies of wooden stakes, rubble, sand, rock debris, pebbles, clay). These activities were generally carried out by people from the most disadvantaged sections of Konye commune. We have also seen the development of the small business around the site of the road construction with the increased demand generated by the XAF 49,194,748 distributed as incomes to the workers on the site works.

In addition, this regular provision of income to local populations has reduced their vulnerability and improved their social protection with the regular ability to pay for basic health care, food and school fees for families (Target 1.3).



Goal 2: “Zero” hunger

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

The target areas for the "Zero Hunger" goal are fivefold: End hunger (2.1), end malnutrition (2.1), double agricultural productivity (2.3), ensure the sustainability of food production systems (2.4) and preserve genetic diversity (2.5).

By contributing to a greater income distribution, the use of EII approaches particularly in rural areas, increases the ability of poor households to meet their food needs, including those of their children. This allows them to potentially access more nutritionally balanced food and avoid nutritional deficiencies (stunting, wasting, underweight) while better meeting the nutritional needs of specific categories such as adolescent girls, pregnant or lactating women and elderly family members (Targets 2.1 and 2.2).

Even more indirectly, organizations such as the World Food Programme (WFP) often use Food for Work (FFW) or Food for Training (FFT) formulas to assist vulnerable communities involved in labour-intensive work (HIMO) to implement socio-economic development projects.

The contribution of EII approaches is more direct in improving agricultural productivity (Target 2.3) and the sustainability of food production systems (Target 2.4). In rural areas, improving rural infrastructure requires a holistic and long-term approach, which includes construction as well as repairs and maintenance as and when necessary. This requires appropriate service provision systems, as well as capacity building of individuals and local institutions; areas in which EII approaches are relevant and appropriate.

Particularly regarding agricultural productivity, EII approaches are applied for the preparation of arable land and hydro-agricultural development. They have proven their worth in the construction of agricultural feeder roads, storage depots and sustainable irrigation infrastructure. The latter are a significant asset in improving agricultural productivity. In Africa notably, irrigated areas contribute 20% of the value of agricultural production while they represent only 3.5% of cultivated areas.

In the case of some EII projects, the income derived from the work was invested by the population in the acquisition of inputs (seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides), agricultural equipment (motor pumps, carts, all-purpose carriers, traction animals, etc.) and even in savings banks to prevent lean periods.

EII approaches also have a high performance in combating soil erosion and other forms of soil degradation, which each year deprive the world of five to eight million hectares of agricultural land, and sweep away 25,000 million tonnes of topsoil. In so doing, they contribute to limiting the loss of environmental resources and to the conservation of certain species and their genetic resources (Target 2.5).



By contributing to the increase of the incomes of the local populations, the project of support to the creation of jobs and the reinforcement of the employability of the young people contributed to the elimination of the extreme poverty in the commune of Konye. Although statistical data are not yet available, socio-economic surveys have revealed that most income distributed in the form of wages is used for household food. This has helped to eliminate hunger and reduce malnutrition (Targets 2.1 and 2.2). Moreover, throughout the construction work of the school site during the Kumba / Mamfe project, the preservation of genetic diversity has always been a major concern given that the project was focusing on the construction of a new road. To this end, it was necessary to equip the workers on the site with the tools and techniques necessary to limit the impacts of the road construction on the genetic diversity and thus preserve the very rich terrestrial ecosystem of the region during the brushing works, topsoil stripping, tree pruning, tree cutting, stump removal and debris removal, excavation of polluted materials (sloughs / mildew), cuttings / backfills, watering and compaction of the form layer, creation of ditches and outlets, expansion / excavation of selected materials, removal, quarrying and transportation of the products to the project site (Target 2.5). As an illustration, during the works of the school yard, the following areas and quantities of materials were concerned: Brushing (62,479 m²) - Topsoil stripping (77,512 m²) - Pruning of trees including the evacuation of trees debris (10 u) - Cutting of trees including stump removal and debris removal (44 u) - Excavation of polluted materials (380 m³) - Cutting / filling, watering and compaction of the top layer (15 cm x 8 ml) (5,976 m³) - Creation ditches (9376 ml) - Creation of outlets (542.98 ml) - Expansion / Excavation of the selected materials (5,301.15 m³) - Erosion (30m³). Thus, it was necessary to carry out these activities in order to preserve the ecosystem and the genetic diversity.



3 HEALTHY LIVES AND WELL-BEING



Goal 3: Healthy lives and well-being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being
for all at all ages

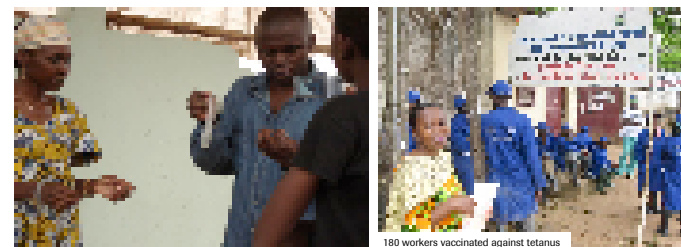
Through this goal, the international community has committed itself to reduce maternal mortality (3.1), infant mortality (3.2), end AIDS epidemic, tuberculosis, malaria and tropical diseases (3.3), reducing mortality from non-communicable diseases (3.4), strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse (3.5), reducing the number of deaths and injuries due to road accidents (3.6), ensure access to sexual and reproductive health care (3.7), achieving universal health coverage (3.8) and reduce the number of deaths from hazardous chemicals (3.9).

In developing countries with low wages, high unemployment and underemployment rates and significant infrastructure gaps, Employment Intensive Investment approaches have demonstrated their comparative advantages in the implementation of certain works. Among these are the basic health facilities (huts and health centres) through which EII approaches directly contribute to the densification and improvement of the infrastructure essential for health services. Applied to the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of roads and civil engineering structures, they contribute to improve access to social services (health and education) by reducing travel times and the difficulty of travelling. In this respect, EII approaches contribute to the achievement of all the above-mentioned targets.

In addition, the infrastructures built, rehabilitated or maintained contribute, through its quality, to reduce road accidents (Target 3.6). More directly, the development of EII approaches integrates occupational safety and health concerns essential to the quality of labour relations and worker productivity. In addition to health coverage (insurance), these programmes apply simple safety and health measures such as the provision of a first aid kit, personal protective equipment (gloves, helmets, boots, glasses, etc.) and include specific risk prevention modules. Through the workers concerned, these programmes thus contribute to expand health coverage (Target 3.8).

In addition, the recruitment phases in EII projects are regularly used to conduct medical examinations for candidates. In addition to awareness-raising, counselling and education campaigns for changing risky sexual behaviour organized during work periods for workers, these programmes contribute to the dissemination of methods of preventing communicable diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as well as hygiene and sanitation practices (Target 3.3).

In the same vein, they offer opportunities for awareness-raising against drug and alcohol abuse (Target 3.5), sexual education, including for family planning purposes (Target 3.7) and even the dissemination of first aid in the event of an accident (Target 3.6).



The construction of the Kombone Bafaw -Lubange-Illey-Bikoro Bafaw road has reduced the number of deaths and injuries due to road accidents and especially reduced maternal mortality and infant mortality by facilitating the transport of children and pregnant women to Konye health centers. Prior to project implementation, pregnant women and sick children living in villages after Bikoro Bafaw had difficulty navigating to health centers in Konye. But today, with the construction and regular maintenance of the road, the displacement of patients has been facilitated thus reducing maternal mortality (Target 3.1), reduce infant mortality (Target 3.2).

In addition, awareness sessions on HIV / AIDS were systematically organized during the training sessions organized by the kumba / Mamfé project. The populations bordering the Kombone Bafaw -Lubange-Illey-Bikoro Bafaw road, about 4,000 people including 386 registered workers (298 men, 77% and 88 women or 23%) on the construction site were thus directly sensitized to the respect of preventive measures against malaria, HIV / AIDS and waterborne diseases such as diarrhea. These sensitization sessions were crucial given the level of vulnerability among construction workers due to: (i) their high mobility due to the nature of their activity; (ii) their socio-economic vulnerability since they are often employed on the basis of temporary contracts; (iii) their limited access to health and information services; (iv) the fact that construction sites are poles of attraction for men and women for various interests (traders, job seekers, sex workers). For example, direct measures for the prevention of malaria, HIV / AIDS and waterborne diseases have reduced the prevalence of diarrhea and other water-related diseases among project staff and families (Targets 3.3 and 3.4).

In addition, awareness-raising sessions were regularly organized on drug and alcohol abuse, which is increasing dramatically in the project area, on sex education, family planning and the use of first-hand gestures in the case of cars accident (Targets 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7).



Goal 4: Quality Education

Ensure equitable and inclusive quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

The objectives of the quality education goal are seven-fold: ensuring a free and full primary and secondary education cycle for boys and girls (4.1), Facilitating access to early childhood development services (4.2), ensuring that all women and men have equal access to quality technical and vocational education (4.3), increasing the number of young people and adults with technical and vocational skills (4.4), eliminating gender inequalities in education and ensuring equal access for vulnerable people (4.5), ensuring that all young people and a considerable proportion of adults know how to read, write and count (4.6) and ensuring that all students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to promote sustainable development (4.7).

By contributing to a greater distribution of income, EII approaches indirectly contribute to the improvement of school care of children from the poorest households. In fact, it is shown that school dropout among children is often associated with the difficult economic conditions of their families. With an increase in their economic potential and, above all, in their knowledge, those directly or indirectly involved in EII approaches are in a better position to invest in the development of their children's human capital. They thus have more opportunities to send and keep their children in school programmes, including those dedicated to early childhood care (Targets 4.1 and 4.2).

In implementing EII approaches, it is essential that local managers, entrepreneurs and technical staff have the capacity and necessary skills to generate the expected productivity, quality, standards and cost-effectiveness. For this reason, the deployment of these programmes is usually followed by specific capacity-building initiatives after the assessment of workers' skills. The EII approaches include the training of young people in the various construction sectors (masonry, ironwork, electricity, plumbing, carpentry, ...) and have sometimes resulted in the establishment of formal training centres.

In order to guarantee the sustainability of their performance in raising standards of living after the construction phase, the end of construction works regularly leads to the support of youth involved in the EII approaches to start income-generating activities through the organization of training and employment sessions in the sectors of their choice (sewing, agriculture, breeding, trade, etc ...). Through all these initiatives, EII programmes effectively participate in increasing professional and technical skills at project level and well beyond. (Target 4.4).

Still in the same field and taking into account the need to give everybody a chance to be able to participate in the realisation of projects, regardless of their level of education, EII programmes include, in their execution phases, various accompanying activities including functional literacy courses or strengthening actions of dedicated literacy-development structures operating in the intervention areas of Programmes (support for Functional Literacy Centres, Training of instructors, etc.). In doing so, they help to make up for some inequalities in access to education for vulnerable people (Targets 4.5 and 4.6).

In addition, sensitization activities play an important role in the deployment of EII Programmes. In general, a work-free day is reserved for the sensitization of workers on various topics such as citizenship, social cohesion, prevention of STIs / HIV AIDS, gender, etc. The beneficiaries of these actions thus acquire important knowledge and skills for them to adopt more responsible lifestyles that they in turn can disseminate around them (Target 4.7).

The Kumba / Mamfe project has greatly contributed to the technical capacity building and professional skills of the people involved in the on-site training programme. During the two years of project implementation, training courses were organized for construction-related trades, either for buildings, roads or sanitation for the benefit of groups of young people trained to integrate the Municipal Road Committees (MRC) or become individual or collective entrepreneurs.

In addition, the skills of local and decentralized administrations have also been strengthened in various areas including: (i) Assessment of the opportunity and relevance of using EII approaches in the construction of infrastructure of secondary and tertiary importance (optimization of the employment potential of constructed infrastructures, promotion of the development of local SMEs in the field of construction and stimulation of the production and use of local materials and tools); (ii) Supervision of construction contracts, rehabilitation and maintenance of secondary roads, and other simple technical works (preparation of bidding documents, administrative, technical and accounting management of works contracts).

Local SMEs involved in Public Works sector were trained in the management of EII projects and were thus able to acquire the skills needed to implement contracts that favour wide use of local resources.

The on-site school was the area where theoretical training was applied, with supervision provided by ILO experts. The benefit of these trainings has been extended to professional interns finishing at ENSTP / AB. Definitely, the training provided, involved 386 workers (298 men, 77% and 88 women that is 23%) registered on the construction site and more than 250 other people including 29 executives of decentralized and local administrations, 16 technical managers and 11 senior executive of construction SMEs, 56 young people/ youth associations, and 138 young interns.



Goal 5: Gender Equality

Achieve gender equality and
empower all women and girls

The targets set by this objective are; the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls (5.1), the elimination of all forms of violence against girls and women (5.2), the eradication of harmful practices (5.3), The consideration and valorisation of unpaid care and domestic work (5.4) and, access to sexual and reproductive health care for all (5.5).

Many development analysts agree that women's empowerment is an excellent channel for improving social well-being. In agreement with this assertion, EII Programmes emphasize women's participation. To date, the quota of women in EII projects is around 30%. In order to raise awareness of issues related to empowerment and reduction of discrimination affecting women, this quota should be progressively raised.

Due to sociological realities that push women in many cases to express themselves less than men, and even remain silent with their opinion not always taken into consideration when it comes to preparing projects, EII Programmes develop specific consultation spaces for women. This approach clearly defines a better segmentation of the real needs of men and women, and thus exercises a more lasting impact. As an excellent framework for the promotion of International Labour standards, non-discrimination, Gender-related, is an integral part of the minimum requirements applied in all EII Programmes. Thus, with equal working time and productivity levels, it is of a high importance that the pay be equal. Not surprisingly, EII programmes have more intense effects for women, in terms of their impact on employment and income (Target 5.1).

Moreover, some experiences in post-conflict countries proved to be positive for the resolution of inter-communal conflict and especially for the reduction of violent practices against women and girls. In the framework of many EII Programmes, the Violence Reduction Programme (VRP), defined by communities and local authorities, made it possible to identify priority actions in terms of the reduction and prevention of violence. Conducting participatory diagnosis workshops on the manifestations and causes of violence and the establishment of violence prevention activities have substantially reduced different types of violence in communities, especially those affecting women (Target 5.2).

Various studies have also shown the strength of the link between the degree of economic autonomy of the mother and the development of children, the increased participation of women in EII programmes is intended to promote better access of their child-

ren to education. Such developments are likely to gradually reduce practices harmful to girls, such as child marriage, early or forced marriage (Targets 5.3 and 5.5).

In addition, the training and sensitization organized in the framework of the programs for the latter have a direct impact on the care of their families and especially in raising their children. EII programmes thus contribute to set up the foundations for sustainable reduction of gender inequalities including access to leadership in political, economic and public life (Target 5.4).

The ILO's vision on gender is summarized in three points: (i) Ensuring complementarity of conventional measures (laws, regulations, etc.); (ii) Taking measures to create jobs for women; (iii) Taking measures to associate work and family life. There are inequalities that women face daily in all areas of activity and the construction sector is not left out.

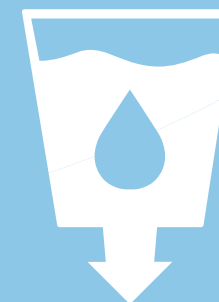
Throughout the implementation of the Kumba / Mamfé project, ILO support has ensured as much as possible gender consideration: (i) in terms of employment, 25,211 daily working hours created by employing 421 workers, 26 % of whom are women; (ii) 240 young people were sensitized about the need to create income-generating activities of which 16.80% were women; (iii) out of 56 young people / youth associations trained in Entrepreneurship (creation of SMEs and the development of Income Generating Activities), there were 29.82% of women; (iv) of the 138 young people trained in the Building and Public Works trades, 21% were women.

In order to encourage the presence of women on the construction site, specific tasks were attributed to them, considering physical differences. These activities include: "Brushing"; "Topsoil stripping"; "Debris removal" and "sprinkling of the form layer".

In addition, Mrs Alice Ewanga's story is quite revealing of the importance that women have had on the project. This young widow who was raising her children alone was employed for 10 months on the construction site. Initiated in public works by the project, she moved from the position of Worker to Chief Technical road-mender and now supervises a team of workers in the Committee of Rural Roads (CRR) of Loubange. Thanks to the income from the construction site and the training received, she has launched small economic activities that now ensure her financial independence. She hopes that the decentralization process currently under way in Cameroon will increase the opportunities for road maintenance contracts for the Committee in which she is the Head.



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation

Ensure access to sustainably managed water and sanitation services for all.

The targets set for the clean water and sanitation goal are as follows: universal and equitable access to drinking water for all (6.1), equitable access to hygiene and sanitation services for all (6.2), improvement of water quality (6.3), efficient use of all water resources (6.4), integrated management of all water resources (6.5) and protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems (6.6).

The World's poorest people in their majority live in rural areas; they have limited access to infrastructure, employment and economic opportunities and are particularly vulnerable to economic, health and environmental risks. It is estimated that 79% of people who use unsafe water sources and 93% of those who use surface water live in rural areas.

On the basis of these findings, EII approaches are being used worldwide to construct water pipes, boreholes, wells, water drain pipes, etc. This is particularly the case of the Investment Project in Support of Local Economic Development (Far North, Cameroon) which has made it possible, through the use of EII techniques, to create wells and boreholes for the improvement of access to water for the populations of this region of Cameroon. In Nepal, an EII programme between 2007 and 2010 created about 16 km² of river basins and 210 ha of irrigation canals. Through such interventions, EII programmes contribute to improving universal and equitable access to safe drinking water (Target 6.1).

During the construction phases, workers of EII sites benefit from training and awareness campaigns on good hygienic practices. Various themes are discussed to encourage them to maintain a decent lifestyle in order to stay healthy during and after construction. On a micro-economic level and on construction sites, sanitation services (latrines, toilets ...) are available for them. In addition, the income received from their participation in worksites allows vulnerable people to be better able to access hygiene and sanitation services (Target 6.2).

Many developing cities in developing countries suffer from the lack of adequate sanitation systems such as sewage systems. Industrial wastewater and waste from the emptying of septic tanks and latrines are sent to the rivers without treatment, thus polluting them. Projects using EII approaches such as the Yaoundé Sanitation Project - Phase 1 (PADY.1) addressed this issue. In addition to the construction of drainage channels of the main river that crosses the city and its tributaries, the PADY.2 has developed a pilot unit for the dumping and treatment of domestic sludge. Such interventions help to eliminate the dumping of waste and thus reduce water pollution (Target 6.3).

On another level, EII approaches stand out positively by the deployment of techniques that rationalize the exploitation of resources, including water resources. During their realization, they take into account the imperatives of the rational use of this resource (Target 6.4) and present themselves as models of its integrated management (Target 6.5).

In addition, EII techniques have been used in several cases for the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems, particularly forests (the case of the "HIMO GREEN" programme in Ivory Coast), rivers (Case of job creation programme aiming at re-boosting economic activities in Haiti in 2010. That programme corrected gullies and riverbanks) and the Lakes (Target 6.6).

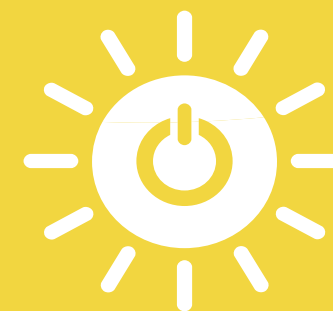


Although the SDD 6 are not directly targeted, the Kumba-Mamfe project has helped to improve the Kombone Bafaw-Lubange-Illey-Bikoro Bafaw road drainage network. Indeed, all along the road, a scupper and five culvert passages (4 of Ø 800 and a double passage of Ø 1000) were built; thus contributing significantly to the improvement of the water purification system.

As for the Yaoundé sanitation project (PADY 1 & 2), we can say that it is an EII project model addressing water and sanitation concerns. It has permitted to develop the linear area of the main river (Mfoundi) and its four tributaries crossing the city of Yaoundé. Moreover, with this project, a pilot unit for sludge treatment coming from domestic waste has been built, landscaping design works were carried out around the main channel, vector control measures of health centres found in its intervention area were strengthened, the capacity building of the Yaounde Urban Council (CUI) including the 7 subdivisional councils (CA) was supported. With the use of the EII approaches, the project has had an impact on urban poverty reduction and directly benefited a population of 1.8 million people. The project has equally achieved excellent results in reducing floods and improving the living conditions of the Yaounde city dwellers.



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Goal 7: Affordable and Clean energy

Guarantee access to reliable, sustainable and modern energy services at an affordable cost for all

This objective aims at giving access to reliable and modern energy services for all (7.1), increasing the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix (7.2), and improving worldwide energy efficiency (7.3).

Energy is at the centre of almost all of today's challenges (jobs, security, climate change, food, increased incomes, etc.). Committed to improving the living conditions of the population and especially the most vulnerable, EII Programmes, through their holistic approach, regularly integrate energy services access concerns. In this regard, several initiatives have been deployed under some of these programmes to encourage people to adopt clean cooking equipment such as improved stoves and to make sustainable use of energy sources such as wood and coal.

Within the framework of the Energy Services Access Project for the Rural Municipality of Safo in Mali (2011–2015), as in many other examples that have extensively used EII techniques, the comfort of the populations has been improved through the facilitation of their access to reliable, sustainable and modern energy services. The income redistribution effected by the EII programmes indirectly gives the beneficiaries a better capacity to acquire essential equipment for the satisfaction of their energy needs (lamp, pump, gas kits, etc.) (Target 7.1).

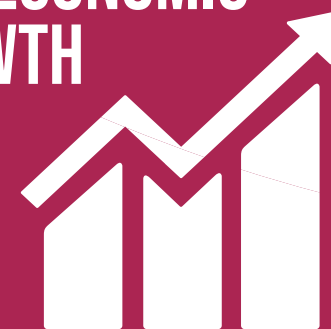
As promotion tools for innovative approaches, EII programmes regularly favour the use of renewable energies, either during construction works (boreholes, solar energy pumps), or during support phases to post-construction works income-generating activities projects creation. In this way, young people are encouraged to develop adapted, attractive, profitable and accessible entrepreneurial initiatives in the field of renewable energies. (Target 7.2).

Based on an optimal use of the workforce and a substitution of men by equipment, EII programmes facilitates the production of infrastructures at reasonable cost. The substantial reduction in the use of machinery leads to lower energy consumption, all of which contribute to better energy efficiency of projects (Target 7.3).





8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

Promote strong, shared and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The targets set for decent work and economic growth are as follows: improving the economic growth rate per capita (8.1), improving economic productivity (8.2), promoting development-oriented policies (8.3), using efficient global resources (8.4), achieving productive full employment (8.5), reducing the number of out-of-school and unemployed youths (8.6), eradicating forced Labour (8.7), defending workers and promoting decent work (8.8), developing sustainable tourism (8.9) and easing access to banking services (8.10).

The creation of sustainable jobs and the promotion of local economies are the main results of EII programmes worldwide. Employment being the best way to overcome poverty and laying the foundation of a righteous, stable and peaceful society, EII O programmes have made it their main battle horse and the advantages are clearly unanimously accepted. With equal investment levels, EII programmes, compared to other approaches, have created:

- 2 times more jobs during road and rural school construction projects in Madagascar in 2006;
- 3.2 times more jobs during rehabilitation and road maintenance works in Ghana in the 1990s;
- 25 times more jobs (5,000 unskilled labour days per km, against 200) during rural roads construction in Cambodia in 2003;
- 42,000 additional days of work for every USD 1 million invested in road projects in Sierra Leone.

As illustrated by these examples, the contribution of HIMO Programmes to the promotion of jobs leading to full and productive employment is well established (Target 8.5).

Moreover, contrary to popular belief, this employment is sustainable because it is accompanied by increased employability of workers and by training on construction sites. In many countries, EII programmes have served as levers for the promotion of ILS (International Labour Standards). Compliance with building standards in construction sites has been capitalized at larger scales and, in some cases, has contributed to national policy-making; all of which make EII Programmes feature among top decent work promotion instruments around the world (Target 8.8).

Several features of EII approaches also make them essential levers for promoting local economies. They rely mainly on the valorisation of local resources (labour, raw materials), induce a greater redistribution of income to local workers and, favour small-scale call for tenders with simplified procedures and thus accessible to SMEs. In doing so, programmes that use these approaches have a stronger capacity to drive local economies through their indirect and induced effects. Support for the post-construction installation of young people regularly leads to studies being carried out (diagnosis of the sectors, mapping of economic opportunities, market studies, etc.). They are thus in line with the value chains development considerations and improvement of economic productivity (Targets 8.1 and 8.2).

Beyond economic rationalization (cost reduction), valuing local resources is also part of a search for sustainability in performance and efficiency in the use of global resources (Target 8.4).

EII programmes often result in a reorganization of youth activity portfolio. They promote the creation of employment opportunities, especially for the less qualified who are in a great number in the Labour market of poor countries. By providing access to a first job for them, they enable them to develop the technical and behavioural skills necessary for their sustainable integration into the Labour market (Target 8.6).

The "matching grants" option which consists of granting additional funds to the beneficiary at the end of the programme provided that he has been able to save some money (determined in advance) from his income during the programme, favours the development of independent activities. For example, EII programmes have helped to set up savings and credit groups; a necessary step towards the appropriation of modern finance channels (Target 8.9).

The EII project carried out during the construction of the Kumba-Mamfe Road in Cameroon contributed to the suppression of forced labor and the defense of workers' rights by promoting decent work on the EII school site and during the organized training courses. This has done through the introduction of a decent work module during training sessions. In addition, on the school site, these decent work principles were also implemented to ensure that young people, technical managers of SMEs, mayors and local council technical staff are trained in the integration of decent work in road maintenance work.

The added value of the ILO has been to ensure the introduction of decent work clauses, particularly in the area of wage guarantees, the application of collective agreements and the respect of workers' safety conditions and their effective application into school construction works, particularly the C167 concerning the Convention on Safety and Health in Construction.

As an illustration, the wearing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was systematic on the site and its non-compliance led to a financial penalty. In addition, all the workers on the site benefited from a construction insurance contract subscribed for this purpose. (Targets 8.7 and 8.8).

The project also promoted local economic development through the training of young people in the various construction trades, the development of small income-generating activities and the creation of jobs. At the end, 66 direct and 91 indirect jobs and many induced jobs was created, almost for young people.

In addition, 138 young people (21% of whom were women) were trained in the building and civil engineering trades, of which about ten directly found jobs with the international company in charge of the construction of the main road.

The project demonstrated to the beneficiaries that it was possible to rehabilitate a road through the development of local resources.

In addition, some 50 executives of the decentralized administrations and members of the Communal Road Committees have been trained in the management of EII contracts in order to ensure the sustainability of the results and the implementation of the approach within the local council projects. (Targets 8.1, 8.2, 8.6).



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Build resilient infrastructures, promote sustainable industrialization that benefits all and encourage innovation.

Targets for achieving industry, innovation and infrastructures goal include: establishing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure (Target 9.1); promoting sustainable industrialization (Target 9.2); increasing business access to financial services (Target 9.3), modernizing the industry (Target 9.4) and strengthening scientific research (Target 9.5).

In their vision of improving people's access to basic public services and contributing to local development, the EII programs rely almost entirely on the construction and maintenance of public infrastructures such as roads, gutters, green spaces or the rehabilitation and maintenance of tertiary and secondary roads. They also include the construction of schools, houses, bridges, dikes and other related works. Examples of such achievements are numerous (street paving of the secondary town of Kaya in Burkina Faso between 1994 and 1999, construction of bridges, paths, rural roads in Indonesia after the 2004 tsunami, job-creation projects to strengthen the employability of young people in relation to the development of the Kumba-Mamfe road in Cameroon 2014-2017, National Programme for the Rehabilitation and Construction of Rural Roads - PN2R - 2011-2014).

The high demand for basic infrastructures offers tremendous opportunities for the development of EII programmes based on the optimal use of local resources: local labour and materials. This ensures sustainability and resilience, especially against of climate change (Target 9.1).

Giving value to local materials has sometimes been food for thought for scientific research and innovation in order to improve the strength, characteristics and conditioning of the materials (Target 9.5). In addition, the contribution of the EII Programmes in improving access to infrastructure such as transport and energy helps to establish the bases of competitiveness necessary for the sustainability of industrialization, particularly in developing countries (Targets 9.2 and 9.4).

Moreover, the increasing use of contracts in the framework of the implementation of the EII worksites increases opportunities for many SMEs. With work contracts, they benefit from theoretical and practical training through on-site schools; all of which help build their capacity, modernize their internal governance and improve their ability to integrate value chains and in turn modern funding channels (Target 9.3).



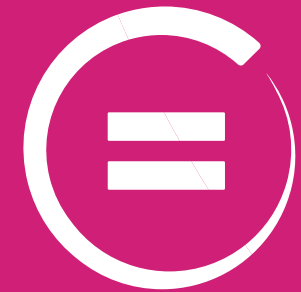
The job creation project to support and enhance the employability of young people was carried out alongside the construction of the Kumba / Mamfe Road and the rehabilitation of 118 km of rural paths. The on-site school set up had to do with 5 km on the Kombone Bafaw-Lobangue-Ileh road towards Dikoro & Efanga in the Konye Council.

The main works performed were brushing, topsoil stripping, tree pruning, debris removal, tree trimming and stump removal, excavation of polluted materials (sloughs / bad weather), cuttings / fillers, watering and compaction of the top layer, creation of ditches, creation of outlets, expansion of selected materials and rock-breaking.

In spite of the difficulties encountered, all works were carried out using the EII approaches. The outcome is the realization of a quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient road with a visible execution rate of 99.5%. This work has made possible (i) the opening-up of isolated and inaccessible villages such as those of Lobangue and Ileh and (ii) a rural road with easy access in all seasons.



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Goal 10: Reduced inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries

The commitment to reduce inequalities within and across countries is based on a consistent set of seven targets: ensure income growth for the poorest 40% of the population (10.1), empower all people and promoting their social, political and economic integration (10.2), ensure equal opportunities by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices (10.3), adopt fiscal, wage and social protection policies (10.4), improve governance and supervision of global financial institutions and markets (10.5), improve the representativeness of developing countries in international economic and financial institutions (10.6) and facilitate migration and mobility in an orderly, secure, regular and accountable manner (10.7).

Some of these targets overlap with the scope and effects of EII Programmes. Mainly carried out in rural areas, these programmes contribute to an income distribution to the poor directly for those recruited in work sites or providing local resources (wooden stakes, bricks, rubble, sand, etc.) used during works. Indirectly, the infrastructure built, rehabilitated or maintained under these programmes improves the living conditions of these people and provides them with facilities for the development of income-generating activities, while their involvement in the work gives them the opportunity to effectively participate in the local development process. Thus, appropriate targeting of intervention areas and the conditions for the deployment of EII Programmes make them levers for reducing inequalities (Target 10.1).

Wherever EII Programmes are deployed, emphasis is laid on a number of basic clauses in the definition of employment contracts such as minimum wage, minimum age, workers' compensation for accidents at work, safety and health and non-discrimination. These rules have often led to priority access reserved for the most vulnerable members, including people with disabilities, women heads of households, households in which no members work, etc. At the scale of their implementation, EII Programmes thus contribute to the economic empowerment and social integration of people who are often marginalized (Target 10.2 and 10.3).

A global phenomenon that is becoming more and more complex, migration tends to become a factor of underdevelopment when it concerns young people leaving their lands to escape marginalization, injustice, social insecurity, famine and poverty. By creating jobs and generating significant income for young people, particularly in rural areas, Employment Intensive Investment Programmes have been powerful drivers of socialization and empowerment for young people recruited from the work sites. The

income generated has often provided the initial capital they lacked to develop income-generating activities and to renounce the rural exodus that very often fuels "unconscious" and irregular international migration (Target 10.7). In addition, some Governments, observing the benefits generated by EII Programmes, have drawn inspiration from the standards of these Programmes in terms of social security to improve national social protection policies and wage norms (Target 10.4).



The job creation project to support and enhance the employability of young people was carried out alongside the construction of the Kumba/Mamfe Road has enabled the construction of 2 km in Loubangue, making possible the restart of the weekly market of this landlocked place.

Thanks to this development, the cost of Kumba-Lobangue transport, which was nearly XAF 6,000 because of the poor road condition from Kumba, has dropped to XAF 1,500 owing to the construction of the N8, and the EII work done. Also, a transport line was created at the FIANGO bus station in Kumba.

In addition, the distribution of income generated from to labour in a salary form has directly positively impacted some households living conditions in the area. By appropriately targeting intervention areas, the project has contributed to reducing inequalities.



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities

Make cities and human settlements
inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Seven targets underpin this goal: ensure universal access to basic housing and services (11.1), ensure universal access to safe, accessible and sustainable transport systems at an affordable cost (11.2), strengthen sustainable urbanization (11.3), protect and preserve the world's cultural and natural heritage (11.4), significantly reduce the number of people killed and the number of people affected by disasters (11.5), reduce the negative environmental impact of cities (11.6) and ensure access for all to safe green spaces and public spaces (11.7).

The achievement of most of these targets requires, if not relies on, the development of infrastructure of a size and nature that is perfectly suited to EII approaches. These have proven their worth in the construction of small infrastructure in both rural and urban areas, including housing, social infrastructure (schools, health centres, sanitation, green spaces, etc.) and thus provide a direct response to concerns about access to housing and basic services (Target 11.1) and urban recreation areas such as green spaces (Target 11.7).

In many cases, Employment Intensive Investment Programmes have positively influenced the direction of planning policies and contract award procedures as well as project monitoring and evaluation. Through specific modules or by simply disseminating experiences, EII Programmes contribute to the strengthening of institutions in the management of public works, the carrying out of feasibility studies and technical studies relating to the construction/rehabilitation/maintenance of infrastructure in different sectors; all of which contribute to the improvement of urban planning and human settlement management policies (Target 11.3).

The implementation of Employment Intensive Investment Programmes has sometimes been carried out in response to natural disasters (earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, landslides, etc.). In addition to improving the livelihoods and local economic development of communities, these Programmes have contributed to the restoration of cultural and natural heritage (Target 11.4).

Ecosystem restoration through EII Programmes has, in some cases, included various infrastructure-based erosion control measures, such as ravine control, stream correction, afforestation, and the construction of ditches to reduce erosion. Such actions help to prevent and limit the devastating effects of natural disasters. Like hurricanes, such effects are regularly aggravated by erosion and deforestation. Investments then

help to replenish areas of land that can absorb some of the water and vegetation that can slow it down. Such initiatives demonstrate the potential of Employment Intensive Investment approaches to help reduce economic losses due to natural disasters (Target 11.5).

To support the improvement of the urban environment, Employment Intensive Investment Programmes have been experimented in household waste collection and artisanal composting. In cities facing increasing volumes of waste produced and insufficient coverage of collection systems, this approach responds to both a sanitation and socio-economic logic (promotion of IGAs, reduction of transfer costs to landfills). By integrating training and awareness-raising in waste sorting and treatment, these Programmes bring together formal and informal stakeholders to address common issues such as waste recycling, environmental protection and the improvement of living conditions in unhygienic neighbourhoods (Target 11.6).

Owing to work carried out within the framework of the Kumba / Mamfé road construction, inhabitants of the enclaved villages of Lobangue and Illeh now have a safe and more economically accessible transport system. The practicability of the road has been significantly improved and transport costs have decreased. The better state of the road has also reduced the risk of accidents (Targets 11.2 and 11.3).

In addition, during project implementation, we ensured the protection and preservation of the regional cultural and natural heritage (Target 11.4). In fact, during the construction of the road, the project took care to protect the cultural heritage against damage, alteration, suppression by avoiding the plantations and the tombs that were on the route of the road. In addition, flexible working hours had been introduced to allow some women to do their chores and some farmers to go to their fields before going to the job site.



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production

Ensure sustainable consumption
and production patterns

The global community's commitment to sustainable consumption and production patterns refers to the following specific targets: implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (12.1), achieve sustainable management and rational use of natural resources (12.2), reduce the volume of food waste and reduce food losses (12.3), achieving environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes (12.4), significantly reduce waste generation (12.5), encourage businesses to adopt sustainable practices (12.6), promote sustainable practices in public procurement (12.7) and ensure that all people have the information and knowledge needed for sustainable development (12.8).

Employment Intensive Investment approaches have been designed to promote the rational use of natural resources, which are now an important issue in terms of food, environment, politics, geopolitics, health and socio-economic issues. By combining employment with infrastructure development, EII Programmes work to preserve the environment through natural resource restoration and management activities such as reforestation, forest management, soil and water conservation, all of which are consistent with the requirements of sustainable management and the rational use of natural resources (Target 12.2).

In the context of small and medium-scale investments, the stylized evidence strongly suggests that EII approaches create more jobs and are more efficient in terms of costs and resource consumption, especially for local resources:

- EII approaches created 3.2 times more jobs, cost about 10% less, and reduced the need for foreign exchange by about 50% when rehabilitating and maintaining feeder roads (Ghana);
- EII approaches provided a financial advantage of 43% for routine maintenance, 64% for periodic maintenance, and 54% for the complete rehabilitation of regional roads (Mozambique);
- EII approaches created three times more jobs, were at least 30% cheaper, and reduced the need for foreign exchange by 10 to 20% in road construction and rural schools. In some remote areas, EII approaches were about five times cheaper. In school construction, EII approaches have created about twice as many jobs, saving up to 40 percent in resources.

Such comparative advantages give EII approaches significant potential in promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns (Target 12.1) and in encouraging companies, especially procurement companies, to adopt sustainable practices (Target 12.6).

In addition, the procurement experiences of the Employment Intensive Investment programmes are regularly harnessed by Governments to improve their public contracts systems, thus giving these programmes a leverage role in promoting sustainable practices through public procurement (Target 12.7).

The contribution of EII Programmes in disseminating principles, information and knowledge necessary for sustainable development should not also be overlooked, as the opportunity to make investments is often used to organize awareness campaigns on these subjects (Target 12.8).

The job creation project to support and enhance the employability of young people carried out alongside the construction of the Kumba / Mamfe Road put particular emphasis on training and capacity building to enable entrepreneurs, managers and supervisors to conduct work efficiently on the one hand and on the other, to help the staff and managers of the Ministry of Public Works to ensure better control of EII approaches and their incorporation in the public contracts.

This has led to a more rational use of natural resources and more sustainable consumption patterns (Targets 12.1 and 12.2). In addition, during the implementation of the project, training on the use EII approaches led to a considerable reduction in waste production (Target 12.5) and encouraged companies to adopt sustainable practices (Target 12.6).

As an illustration, during the works of the school yard, the following areas and quantities of waste were concerned: Brushing (62,479 m²) - Topsoil stripping (77,512 m²) - Pruning of trees including the evacuation of trees debris (10 u) - Cutting of trees including stump removal and debris removal (44 u) - Excavation of polluted materials (380 m³) - Cutting / filling, (5 976 m³) - Creation ditches (9376 ml) - Creation of outlets (542.98 ml) - Expansion / Excavation of the selected materials (5 301.15 m³) - Erosion (30m³). Thus, it was necessary to carry out these activities in order to preserve the ecosystem and the genetic diversity.

Process optimization by companies and the increased use of EII approaches by administrations are likely to result in the rationalization of resource utilization on construction sites and at a national level. (Targets 12.1, 12.2, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.8).



13 COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE



Goal 13: combating climate change

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Three specific targets underpin this strong commitment expressed by the global community: strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate hazards and climate-related natural disasters (13.1), integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning (13.2), improve education, awareness and individual and institutional capacities (13.3).

The continuous drop in rainfall, the increase in annual average temperatures and the upsurge in extreme events (tsunami, cyclones, sea level rise, droughts, floods, landslides, mudslides, rock falls, landslides, etc.) have significantly influenced the focus of labour-based programmes around the world. The latter now lay greater emphasis on infrastructure investment programmes that can strengthen the resilience of those involved and rural communities, selecting those that contribute to livelihood diversification; climate change adaptation, as well as natural crisis preparedness and prevention.

EII approaches are thus being implemented to anticipate physical changes in rural areas vulnerable to climate change, including by adapting infrastructure, implementing measures to prevent soil erosion and landslides, and strengthening protection systems such as dikes. The significant results achieved in water resource management, reducing land degradation, preserving vegetation and biodiversity, increasing and stabilizing agricultural, forestry and forage yields make these programmes an essential adjunct to strengthening resilience and adaptive capacities in the face of climate change (Target 13.1).

Examples of such projects are numerous:

- The FFA / WFP micro projects in the Logone and Chari Division (Cameroon 2016-2018);
- EII works of the Decentralized Communities Investment Fund (FICOD) in Burkina-Faso (2008-2010);
- The "Rehabilitation and maintenance of rural roads in Bas-Congo province / Bas-Fleuve district project" (DRC, July 2008);
- Dam rehabilitation works (Alatsinainy Ambazahaà Madagascar council, 2015, Ankiembe Madagascar embankment, 2018);

Regarding the results achieved in these areas, EII Programmes are increasingly being integrated into national development policies and strategies as instruments for adapting programmes to climate change (Target 13.2). In addition, in areas affected or at high risk of exposure to climate-related disasters, the roll-out of EII Programmes includes initiatives that contribute to education, awareness and individual capacity building for climate change adaptation, mitigation and impact reduc-

tion (Target 13.3).



Throughout the construction work of the on-site School during the Kumba / Mamfe project, the protection of the environment was always been a major concern. This concern was all the more important as the project focused on the construction of a new road. To this end, it was necessary to equip onsite workers with tools and techniques necessary to limit effects on the environment and thus preserve the very rich terrestrial ecosystem of the region during brushing, topsoil stripping, tree pruning, tree cutting, stump removal and debris removal, excavation of polluted materials (sloughs / bad weather), excavation / backfilling, watering and compaction of the form layer, creation of ditches and outlets, expansion / excavation of selected materials, rock-breaking, quarrying and transportation of products to the project site.

For example during the works of the on-site School, the following areas and quantities of materials were involved: Brushing (62.479 m²) - Topsoil stripping (77.512 m²) - Pruning of trees including the evacuation of trees debris (10 u) - Cutting of trees including stump removal and debris removal (44 u) - Excavation of polluted materials (380 m³) - Cutting / filling, watering and compaction of the top layer (Compactness 15 cm x 8 ml) (5 976 m³) - Creation of ditches (9376 ml) - Creation of outlets (542.98 ml) - Expansion / Excavation of the selected materials (5 301.15 m³) - Erosion (30m³).

Thus, it was necessary to carry out these activities in order to preserve the ecosystem and generate the least possible waste.

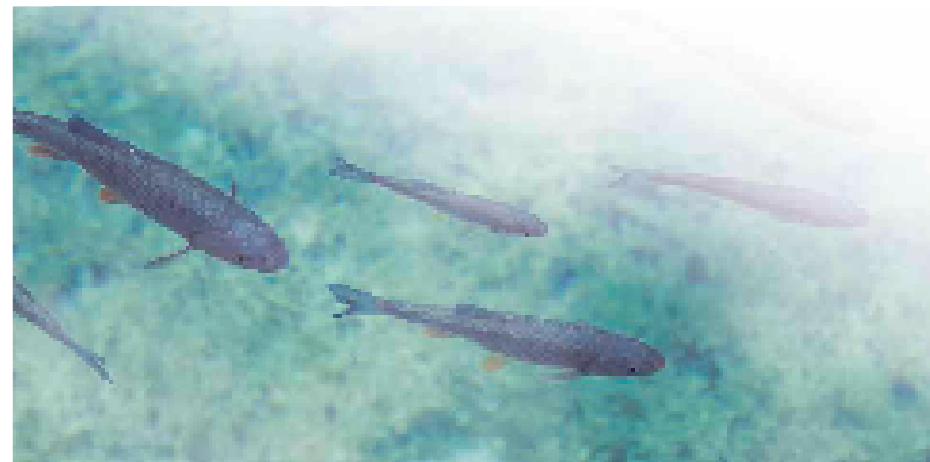


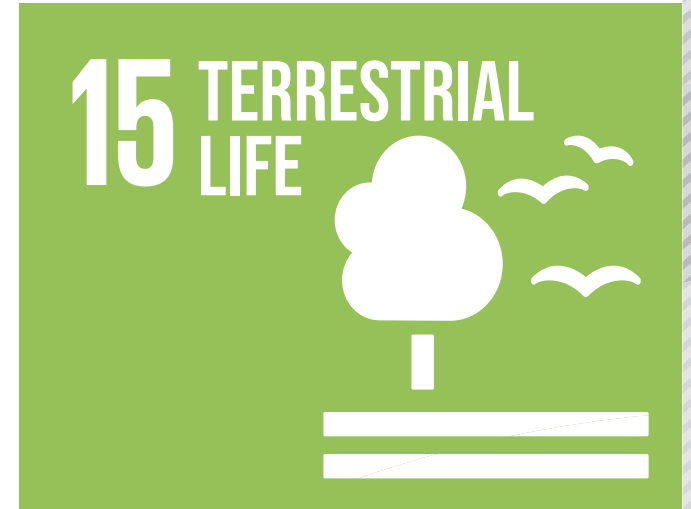
Goal 14: Aquatic life

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans,
seas and marine resources for sustainable development

With regard to aquatic life, the targets selected are as follows: considerably reduce and prevent marine pollution (14.1), sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems (14.2), reduce ocean acidification (14.3), effectively regulate fishing, stop overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices (14.4), conserve at least 10% of marine and coastal areas (14.5), prohibit fishing subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing (14.6), and ensure that small island developing States and least developed countries benefit more from the economic benefits of the sustainable exploitation of marine resources (14.7).

The implications of EII Programmes for these targets for the sustainable management of oceans, seas and marine resources are relatively indirect. Some EII Programmes have been successful in restoring waterways and land water supplies (removal of aquatic plants by rural youth, cleaning of drainage channels, and restoration/extension of watersheds, infrastructure development and water networks).





Goal 15: Terrestrial life

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

The terrestrial life goal concerns nine (9) priority targets: ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems (15.1), promote the sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and increase afforestation and reforestation (15.2), combat desertification, restore degraded lands and soils (15.3), ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems (15.2) and ensure the protection of forest areas and their habitats (15.4), take urgent and decisive action to reduce the degradation of the natural environment, protect threatened species and prevent their extinction (15.5), share, in a fair and equitable manner, the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources (15.6), take urgent measures to stop poaching and trafficking of protected plant and animal species (15.7), take measures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species, significantly mitigate their effects on ecosystems (15.8), integrate ecosystem and biodiversity protection into national planning (15.9).

Many EII programmes have demonstrated the effectiveness of this approach in preserving and restoring terrestrial ecosystems. Some remarkable successes have been achieved notably in:

- restoration of waterways and land water supplies (removal of aquatic plants, cleaning of drainage channels, correction of waterways, restoration and extension of watersheds, restoration of river banks, dredging of river beds, infrastructure development and water systems, etc.);
- erosion control based on infrastructure (ravine control, ditch construction, etc.);
- restoration of fragile ecosystems such as Lake Chad (reforestation, creation of a transborder biosphere reserve, regeneration of certain herbaceous species, etc.);
- sustainable forest management (reforestation for wood-energy purposes, development of simple forest management plans, creation of firewalls, reforestation of degraded areas, maintenance of reforested areas, etc.);

Applied to natural resource management initiatives, EII Programmes provide added value in terms of the participation of all key stakeholders, including local communities and the local private sector, the optimal use of resources, including financial resources, the ownership of approaches to ensure the sustainability of investments and their replication. In this respect, EII approaches appear to be a real asset that should be further capitalized to achieve Targets 1 to 5 of this goal.

The lessons learned from these Programmes have guided national policies in several countries to integrate ecosystem and biodiversity protection requirements into development mechanisms and poverty reduction strategies (Target 15.9).



The preservation of ecosystems was a constant concern during the construction work of the on-site School carried out in the framework of the Kumba / Mamfe project. This concern led to specific actions to build workers' capacity in ecosystems preservation during EII project. Thus, during the road construction, the project carefully limited its impact on vegetation, rivers, local fauna and flora during the different phases of the works. For instance, during the works of the on-site School, the works of : Brushing (62.479 m²) - Topsoil stripping (77.512 m²) - Pruning of trees including the evacuation of trees debris (10 u) - Cutting of trees including stump removal and debris removal (44 u) - Excavation of polluted materials (380 m³) - Cutting / filling, watering and compaction of the top layer (Compactness 15 cm x 8 ml)) (5 976 m³) - Creation of ditches (9376 ml) - Creation of outlets (542.98 ml) - Expansion / Excavation of the selected materials (5 301.15 m³) - Erosion (30m³) have been done only when they were absolutely necessary. In addition, they have been achieved while ensuring the preservation of ecosystems through good waste management (Target 15.1 and 15.2).



16 JUSTICE, PEACE AND EFFECTIVE INSTITUTIONS



Goal 16: Justice, peace and effective institutions

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

The global community's ambition for justice, peace and effective institutions includes ten (10) priority targets: significantly reduce all forms of violence and associated mortality rates (16.1), end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children (16.2), promote the rule of law and provide equal access to justice for all (16.3), significantly reduce illicit financial flows and arms trafficking, all forms of organized crime (16.4), reduce corruption and bribery (16.5), establish effective, accountable and transparent institutions (16.6), ensure that dynamism, openness, participation and representation at all levels characterize decision-making (16.7), Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance (16.8), provide legal identity for all, including through birth registration (16.9), Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements (16.10).

EII Programmes work at the grass roots level to eradicate the root causes of crises and violence around the world. By working on the socio-economic integration of young people, EII Programmes can contribute to reduce idleness, which is often used as a pretext for their recruitment by extremist groups. Through the socio-economic integration of young people, including those in DDR processes, EII Programmes strengthen the foundations of peace and security. This contribution extends to the reintegration of individuals and post-crisis recovery by linking immediate post-crisis recovery to medium- and long-term development work (Target 16.1).

EII Programmes also emphasize community participation in identifying their problems, designing solutions and implementing and evaluating them. Practical decentralization is thus promoted at all levels, from the population to the central state, from companies and civil society organizations to development partners. The experience of these Programmes notably highlights the advantage of regional and local authorities, which are best suited to ensure project management for the implementation of such infrastructure because of the quality of the work resulting from local monitoring and the accountability obligation incumbent on the managers of these entities.

Through this participatory approach, EII Programmes inevitably contribute to the improvement of social cohesion within and between villages and to the development of a democratic process at the community level (Target 16.7).



The Kumba / Mamfe project has made it possible to strengthen social cohesion among the populations bordering the road. Indeed, at the beginning of the project, young people from the communities of Kombone, Bafaw and Lubange were not willing to work together, which even led to a delay in the execution of the on-site School. But, after sensitization sessions and first payments, young people realized the positive effects of the work on their immediate environment in terms of improving living conditions and income.

Thus, by putting enemies together and making them work together on the demonstration sites, the Kumba / Mamfe project helped to slow down the emergence of the socio-political crisis that was already certainly latent. In addition, by promoting the respect for the principles of decent work during training courses and during works on the demonstration site such as the prohibition of child labour, compliance with Convention C167 on safety and health in construction, the existence of a work contract, the respect of working time and non-discrimination, the Kumba / Mamfe project has certainly contributed to a significant reduction in all forms of violence and associated mortality rates, specifically violence against children and women while reducing corruption by ensuring that dynamism, openness, participation and representation at all levels characterize decision-making (Targets 16.1, 16.2 et 16.3).



17 PARTNERSHIPS TO ACHIEVE GOALS



Goal 17: Partnerships to achieve goals

Strengthen the means of implementation
and revitalize the Global Partnership for
Sustainable Development

Several areas are covered by this goal: official development assistance (17.1 - 17.2 - 17.3), public debt sustainability (17.4), investment incentives (17.5), science, technology and innovation (17.6), technology transfer and scientific cooperation (17.7 - 17.8), capacity building (17.9), international and fair trade (17.10 - 17.11 - 17.12), macroeconomic stability (17 - 13), development policy coherence (17.14 - 17.15), partnerships for development (17.16 - 17.17), statistical development (17.18 - 17.19).

Capacity building in improving systems for planning, policy, programme and development strategies is an integral part of the areas covered by EII Programmes. Through support in the analysis of sectoral and thematic issues (infrastructure, employment, statistical systems, vocational training, etc.), EII Programmes help to develop and appropriate development policies.

Impact evaluation studies of implemented Programmes give decision makers information and data that can feed the databases of sectoral and regional monographs, decision support tools in the definition and conduct of development policies. Thus, EII Programmes are at the forefront of capacity building initiatives in developing countries and support for national plans (Target 17.9) as well as those contributing to the collection of quality data and the development of progress indicators of sustainable development (Target 17.18 and 17.19).

The success of the EII Programmes and the effectiveness of this approach have led several international organizations to adopt it as a standard for the implementation of certain development assistance actions and programmes. EII Programmes are thus supported by almost all international organizations and agencies involved in development assistance.

- United Nations system organizations (ILO, UNDP, IFAD, etc.);
- Bilateral partner development agencies (AFD, Swiss Cooperation, Germany, Germany, Japan, etc.);
- International organizations (World Bank, African Development Bank, etc.).

At the end, the EII programme appears to be one of the media and points of convergence around which more effective partnerships can be built to achieve almost all sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The job creation project to support and enhance the employability of young people carried out alongside the construction of the Kumba / Mamfe Road has put particular emphasis on the effectiveness of a local partnership. The project was designed and implemented in a participatory manner by four national, regional and international partner organizations namely:

- the Government through the Ministry of Public Works (MINTP);
- the African Development Bank (AfDB);
- the Development Bank of Central African States (BDEAC) and;
- the International Labour Office (ILO).

From the approval phase to the closing phase, a strong involvement of beneficiaries was sought and obtained in order to meet the expectations of the said beneficiaries, which are municipalities.

Thanks to the partnership put in place, the project has benefited from previous pilot projects carried out by the ILO in promoting EII approaches and consolidating the achievements of previous projects financed by the AfDB, in order to meet the objectives set in the infrastructure development strategy of Cameroon. The project also significantly contributed to the AfDB youth employment initiative (Targets 17.1, 17.2, 17.3, 17.9, 17.14, 17.15, 17.16 - 17.17).

Conclusion

Taking as main support, the realization of infrastructures, the EII approaches have developed holistic and integrated intervention approaches that situate them, in terms of impact, at the confluence of the stakes of technical progress, social progress, economic progress, political progress and environmental progress.

They are positioning themselves, no doubt, as a channel, a lever and an asset on the march of the world community towards the 2030 agenda. Even if it could have produced better results, the pilot initiative of the ILO technical assistance to the Cameroonian Public Works Ministry (MINTP) during the project to support the creation of jobs for youth and the strengthening of their employability in the framework of the development of the Kumba-Mamfe road was an experiment that produced interesting results to share. It remains for the Government of Cameroon and the ILO to take advantage of this experience to build on larger projects to facilitate the achievement of the SDGs through the development of EII programmes.

