

Employment Creation for Youth to Build Sustainable Peace in The Gambia



Clapping hands in a meeting by sign language, workers at a construction site with and without hearing disability

What is Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP)
EIIP is an ILO's investment approach to maximize the creation of employment and the use of locally available resources in the country. EIIP links infrastructure development with employment creation, poverty reduction and local economic and social development. They create much needed employment and income, reduce costs, save foreign currency, and support local industry while increasing the national capacity.

• Background



The Gambia is in urgent need to respond to the political transition after 22-year regime. The political instability worsened the economy in 2017, which was already in a critical situation under the former regime and with the 2016 Ebola crisis, resulted in -0.84% GDP per capita growth in 2016. It also affected the already-high unemployment rate, 29.8% for the total population and as high as 43.9% for the youth is in 2017.

With insufficient job opportunities, the number of Gambian migrants leaving the country via irregular means has not abated. Simultaneously, more than 3,500 have been assisted to return to The Gambia by IOM, which is 6 times larger than originally expected.

Responding to these urgent needs, the Japan-funded project will generate employment opportunities in infrastructure construction works to support the Gambian society to build sustained peace. The project, from Apr 2018 – Apr 2019, will maximize employment opportunities through employment-intensive investment programmes, building on the ILO's 40-year long experience in that field.

• Project Strategy

Project Goal: Create *employment opportunities for youth*, with a particular focus on *returnees and women*, through *local-resource based infrastructure construction*, development of *employability and entrepreneurship support* to promote *Decent Work* for social stability and sustainable peace.

The project applies the Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) approach and gives a specific focus on employment creation in infrastructure construction works, which can provide a large number of employment opportunities immediately for both skilled and unskilled people. The project also ensures to select infrastructures which directly contribute to the agriculture, tourism, or fishery sector, which are the drivers of the economic growth, and to promote the use of locally available materials. It also considers making the project impact sustainable by providing skills training and entrepreneurship support. Furthermore, the project underlines creating decent employment by promoting occupational safety and health (OSH) as well as equality and mutual understanding through encouraging inclusiveness of returnees and women.



50% of workers under the project is young women, changing the stereotype of the construction as a male dominant sector

• Expected Outcomes

Employment Creation

- **400 employment opportunities** created for **Youth including Women, Returnees and People with Disabilities**
- **Economic Growth** stimulated by the 3 constructed infrastructure.
- **Capacity development** to integrate the employment-intensive investment approach.

Decent Work Promotion

- **Decent working conditions with accident and medical insurance** promoted to make the norm in the construction sector.
- **Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)** promoted and implemented.

Employability and Entrepreneurship

- **Practical Training Module** developed for labor-intensive construction works.
- **Insertion to the labour market** promoted.
- Enterprise supported through coaching with the ILO's Start and Improve Your Business approach.



Major Achievements so far (by Dec 2018)

- ❖ **250 youth** gained employment opportunities for the construction for the Tourism and Fishery Sector, composed of **50% of women and 50% men, 12% of returnees and 10 workers (5 female and 5 male) with hearing disabilities**. Communication for all the workers is ensured with translation in sign language. (Further recruitment is expected for the work for the Agriculture Sector).
- ❖ **4 young Gambian engineers** are recruited for the implementation team, benefiting from their initiatives to ensure the sustainable use of Do-nou technology, newly introduced from Japan to The Gambia by the partner NGO, the CORE.
- ❖ **Rehabilitation of 1.2 km Promenade road at Kotu is completed**, where tourists enjoy bird watching, cycling and safe access to hotels.
- ❖ **Construction of 2.5 km access road at Gunjur** is ongoing for better transportation from a fish landing site to the main highway, improving the access to markets, schools, a mosque and a health clinic and ensuring safety of passengers.
- ❖ All the 250 workers are registered for both **accident and medical insurance**.
- ❖ All the 250 workers are **trained on Do-nou technology and Entrepreneurship**. Voluntary youth worked at the Kotu site **established an enterprise** to continue the work, registered and opened a bank account.
- ❖ All the workers are trained on **Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)** before the start of work. **55 staff of tripartite partners are trained as OSH trainers**, making changes at local enterprises and construction sites.
- ❖ More than **300 youth connected to potential employers** in Job Fair jointly organised by IOM, ITC and the Government of The Gambia.
- ❖ Decent work conditions in the context of The Gambia have been disseminated among international and national partners.





Publication and visibility related to the project implementation:

In English:

-EIIP Country Page – The Gambia

https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/employment-intensive-investment/countries/WCMS_647424/lang--en/index.htm

-Japan to support youth employment to build stability and peace in The Gambia

https://www.ilo.org/pardev/news/WCMS_622998/lang--en/index.htm

-Launch of the employment-intensive construction works (Published in the ILO Employment Newsletter as well)

https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/employment-intensive-investment/WCMS_647351/lang--en/index.htm

-Project Video on Youtube (broadcasted on QTV in The Gambia)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84iDdJtI1Ms&feature=youtu.be>

In Japanese:

-Fiche on the project

https://www.ilo.org/tokyo/information/pr/WCMS_633478/lang--ja/index.htm

-Launch of the employment-intensive construction works

https://www.ilo.org/tokyo/information/pr/WCMS_649039/lang--ja/index.htm

-ILO and Japan – Partner

<https://www.ilo.org/tokyo/ilo-japan/partnerships-with-japan/lang--ja/index.htm>

-Employment Creation to Build Sustainable Peace in The Gambia

https://www.ilo.org/tokyo/ilo-japan/partnerships-with-japan/WCMS_630103/lang--ja/index.htm

Other communications include:

-Job fair featured in the newspaper and radio in The Gambia

-Launch of the construction work featured in the newspaper in The Gambia

-Launch of the construction work featured in the newsletter of the Employment Department of the ILO.

-Project paper shared with U.N. agencies including UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNOPS, ITC, UNHCR, FAO, WHO, UNFPA etc. and other donors including EU, Italian Cooperation, Enabel, Embassy of Korea, KOICA etc.

-National and international stakeholders visited the construction sites to observe young women and men working with Do-nou technology on 27th Dec 2018.

-Local newspaper in Gunjur featured the employment-intensive work for the access road on 9th Jan 2019.

