

Project Brief



Enhancing Rural Access (ERA)

Objective	To improve access and income opportunities for rural communities through rehabilitation and maintenance of rural roads by trained contractors.
Key Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Secretariat of State for Support and Promotion of Private Sector (SEAPRI)■ Ministry of Public Works (MPW)■ Don Bosco Foundation, Training Center in Comoro■ Instituto de Apoio ao Desenvolvimento Empresarial (IADE)■ Chambers of Commerce and Industry Timor-Leste (CCI-TL)
Duration	4 years (2011 – 2015)
Geographical Coverage	Timor-Leste, Districts of Ainaro, Aileu, Bobonaro, Covalima, Ermera and Liquica
Country Programme Reference	Enhanced rural employment, safety net, and economy through infrastructure investment and private sector development.
Donor	 The European Union
Budget	EUR 10,000,000
Contact	Tomas Stenstrom Project Chief Engineer stenstrom@ilo.org Donato da Costa Pinheiro Don Bosco Training Coordinator pinheiro.lestes5@gmail.com

Project Background

Timor-Leste is one of the least developed countries in the region. Its economy is essentially agriculture-based, with approximately 75% of its total population of about 1.1 million living in rural areas. A key constraint to economic development is the poor condition of infrastructure in general, and the road network in particular. Another serious structural problem of the economy is the inability to create employment opportunities for the rapidly expanding labour force.

To substantially improve the quality of life of its people and to reduce the incidence of poverty, the Government has prioritized the accelerated development and improvement of a well-connected and coherent road network, which is seen as being fundamental to the country's development. In tandem, the need to promote the development of the currently nascent domestic private sector is recognized and prioritized as private sector capacities are much needed, for example to deliver investments in road infrastructure.

The €10 million *Enhancing Rural Access* (ERA), funded under the 10th European Development Fund, is scheduled for implementation over a period of four years (2011-2015), starting during the last quarter of 2011. ERA builds on the experiences gained in applying integrated capacity building and construction approaches – in particular through the TIM-Works Project implemented by the ILO – and is in many ways a continuation of this approach, focusing upon labour-based road rehabilitation and private sector development.

ILO implements the Project with the Secretariat of State for Support and Promotion of Private Sector (SEAPRI) being the Government counterpart institution and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works for coordination of the road works. ILO collaborates through specific implementation agreements with Don Bosco Training Centre for the technical training component of the Project and with IADE (business development institute) for the business development training aspect of the Project. A Project Steering Committee comprising members of SEAPRI, EU, ILO, Don Bosco and IADE provides overall guidance and direction to the Project and review its implementation progress periodically.

Project Strategies

The ERA Project seeks to improve the access to rural areas through the rehabilitation and maintenance of around 150 km of priority rural roads in selected districts of Timor-Leste. ERA further aims to establish



capacities, both in the private sector, in contract management and in training delivery. Whilst the main objective of ERA is improved access through the rehabilitation and maintenance of rural roads, this will largely be done by local contractors trained in using a labour-based approach.

Labour-based technology (LBT) optimizes the use of productive labour and complements the use of labour with essential equipment necessary to meet the specified technical and engineering standards.

The ERA Project provides support to the identified national training institutions, IADE & Don Bosco Training Centre, in developing their capacities to deliver comprehensive training courses for small domestic contractors, supervisors and contract managers, to ensure the long term availability of institutions capable of delivering quality training to small scale contractors in a sustainable manner. ERA supports and assist these training institutions also in their accreditation in compliance with national competency standards.

Beneficiaries

The main beneficiaries of the ERA Project are the people living in the areas of influence of the roads that will be rehabilitated and/or maintained in the Project's operational areas. They will benefit from the improved road access to social and economic facilities and services and related spin-off effects.

The training of the contractors will provide the required capacity to rehabilitate, repair and maintain the investments. Strengthening the capacities of the training providers will further enhance the sustainability of the Project's capacity building outputs.

Coordination

ERA links with and coordinates its activities with key stakeholders and other relevant initiatives in the sector to ensure synergies and development of harmonized systems.

Main Activities

- Establish and staff Labour Based training department at Don Bosco
- Establish competency based standards for rural road works and complete process of accreditation
- Develop syllabi and/or adapt training materials for civil works contractors for technical as well as business and contracts management training

- Carry out Training of Trainers
- Establish procedures for selection and identification of trainee contractors
- Conduct training for civil works contractors and contracts managers
- Establish road selection criteria and procedures for community involvement
- Identify rural roads, carry out detailed assessment and prepare bidding documents
- Supervise and mentor works implementation

from the Business Women’s Association, on their specific request, however excluding the trial contracts. Furthermore, an additional three batches have been conducted on a commercial basis for contractors preparing bids for the Roads for Development Programme (R4D).

- A comprehensive method for impact assessment has been developed, so called “Community Snapshot”, comparing the “before” and “after” situation. Procedures have been developed and agreed for road selection, and 75 km of rural roads have been identified and assessed in detail.
- The first batch of contracts 14km (5 contracts for Lihu-Samalete) has been completed. The second batch covers 20 km (10 contracts in Ermera, Letefoho Vila-Leimea Sorimbalu and Lauana-Leimea Leten) and the third batch covers another 20 km (5 contracts in Ermera, Atsabe Vila-Laubono Market and 5 contracts in Ainaro, Maubisse-Liurai). Training and implementation of maintenance for the first road is ongoing.

Achievements to Date

- The labour-based training section has been established and is largely managed by staff recruited by Don Bosco Training Centre.
- Training syllabi and material has been developed and is in use for technical, contracts and business management modules. The Project has carried out Training of Trainers for 6 Don Bosco trainers and 12 IADE trainers who have achieved Level III, which is required to deliver the certified training
- The technical training module, delivered by Don Bosco Training Centre, “National Certificate in Labour-based Technology (LBT) for Rural Road Construction” has been certified by INDMO (the national institution for standards and certification of training). Don Bosco has also been accredited as an institution by INDMO
- The business management training module, delivered by IADE, “National Certificate in Management of Small Construction Bids and Contracts” has been certified by INDMO. IADE has also been accredited as an institution by INDMO.
- Procedures have been developed and agreed for identification of trainee contractors. Three training batches of 10 companies have been completed. Trial contracts for the first two batches are ongoing with contracts for the third training batch scheduled to start in June 2013, now using the FIDIC Short Form of Contract, including particular conditions suitable to the Timor-Leste context.
- The project has in addition delivered technical training for 15 companies

