



# STRENGTHEN2

## Employment impact assessment to maximize job creation in sub-Saharan Africa

Project Description - September 2023



### Overview

- ▶ STRENGTHEN2 is a joint initiative of the European Union (EU) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) that aims at leveraging employment impact assessments (EmpIAs) to promote the creation of more and better jobs in sub-Saharan African countries.
- ▶ It builds on earlier ILO work from the [STRENGTHEN](#) project and collaborates closely with other related ILO projects such as [METI](#) and [Jobs & Skills Marker System](#).
- ▶ The project was launched in August 2020 and will end in April 2025.
- ▶ [Main methodologies used](#) are input-output multiplier analysis, more advanced macro-modelling techniques based on social accounting matrices, project-level surveys, and geospatial information systems methods.
- ▶ The project is currently conducting activities in 8 countries: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal and Zambia.

### Context

Sub-Saharan Africa is affected by high levels of poverty, rising inequality, high levels of informality, unemployment and underemployment – in particular among women and youth – and has a fast-growing population, making the creation of more and better jobs an absolute necessity.

In order to boost the business environment and ultimately promote decent job creation and sustainable development in Africa, the European Commission (EC) has set up investment funds and programmes such as the External Investment Plan (EIP), the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD) and the EFSD+.

However, the systematic assessment of the employment impacts of these investments remains a challenge, and technical, methodological and institutional capacities are lacking to understand employment impacts.

### Objectives of the project

The overall aim of the project is to leverage employment impact assessments to promote the creation of more and better jobs in sub-Saharan Africa, in particular by enabling better decision-making on investment projects and related policies to maximize employment impact.

The first objective is **to enhance the capacity to assess the employment outcomes of EU-funded investments and programmes in sub-Saharan African partner countries**. In order to achieve this result, the project measures the employment outcomes of current investments and programmes funded by the EU in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as of new investments and programmes submitted to the EU for financial support.

The second objective is **to support African partner countries and EC services to design and finance investments and programmes with a relatively high employment content**.

### Main beneficiaries in partner countries

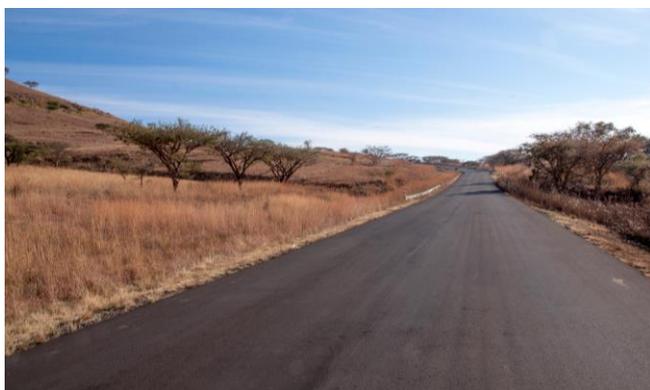
While the ultimate beneficiaries of this project are the working-age population in sub-Saharan African countries, the immediate beneficiaries are:

- ▶ Government offices, ministries and agencies, as they have various roles in leveraging EmpIAs to inform investment and policy decisions;
- ▶ Workers' and employers' representative organizations as they participate in the decision-making process on investments and policies; and
- ▶ Universities and other think tanks as well as the national statistical offices given their roles in providing the basis for a sustainable renewal of the capacity to undertake EmpIAs.

## Specific activities

To achieve its objectives, the STRENGTHEN2 project is conducting various activities such as:

- Create a platform for dialogue with International Financial Institutions to share and improve practices
- Explore existing and innovative EmpIA methodologies
- Develop an ex-ante webtool for the EC to assess the employment impact of selected projects
- Integrate employment tracking into the EC's internal information systems
- Conduct EmpIAs of EU-supported projects and portfolios
- Assist EC services and national partners in identifying sectors or value chains with high employment potential
- Provide guidance on project design and implementation
- Conduct awareness-raising and capacity-building activities by organizing trainings and knowledge-sharing events for national stakeholders



### Examples of EmpIAs conducted by STRENGTHEN2

#### In the transport sector

- ▶ [Rehabilitation](#) of the Senoba-Ziguinchor-Mpack road in Senegal (in French)
- ▶ [Upgrading](#) of the Zambian Great North Road in Zambia
- ▶ National Feeder Roads [Programme](#) in Rwanda
- ▶ [Transport corridor](#) Isiolo-Moyale in Kenya
- ▶ Rehabilitation of the M1 road in Malawi

#### In the energy sector

- ▶ [Electrification project](#) Ecler Ivoire in Côte d'Ivoire (in French)
- ▶ [Renewable energy](#) with the Green Mini-Grid Facility in Kenya

#### General government operations

- ▶ Budget Support to Cote d'Ivoire as part of the Covid response

## Findings and policy recommendations

The above EmpIAs provide information about employment effects generated by the implementation of various infrastructure projects, and highlight opportunities for more job creation that could be leveraged in similar future interventions, but also issues that could be anticipated such as gender, youth and skills biases.