Objective

The infrastructure component of the STREIT programme aims to improve the condition of local transport infrastructure, such as provincial, district and local level roads, airstrips and jetties in East Sepik and Sandaun Provinces to create climate-resilient and efficient value chain enablers for cocoa, vanilla and fisheries industries.

Implementation modalities

Funded by the European Union, the ILO is working together with UN partners, federal government agencies, provincial and district administrations to improve critical transport infrastructure - roads, jetties, wharfs and airstrips to enable:

- Increased agricultural production and productivity in the cocoa, vanilla, and fisheries value chains,
- Access to markets for cocoa, vanilla, and fisheries value chains,
- Improved access to social services (education, health, etc.) for the rural population,
- Paid employment opportunities including for women and youth through labour-based routine maintenance of roads,
- SME development by engaging private contractors and local communities in spot road improvement and maintenance works,
- Strengthen capacity of public and private stakeholders in planning and implementation of road rehabilitation and maintenance works, design standards, mapping, database management, labour-based work methods and ILO’s Decent Work Agenda.

The infrastructure works contributes to SDGs and ILO outcomes:

1. Road works
   - Routine maintenance (312 km for 4 years)
     This is being achieved using local resources and employment-intensive work methods carried out by local Road Maintenance Groups (RMG) mobilised in local communities.
   - Specific maintenance (127 km)
     This is being achieved by creating labour-based work methods by local communities and engaging local contractors.

2. Rural airstrips
   - Rehabilitation (130 km)
     This is being achieved by engaging local contractors combined with skilled and unskilled local labour and machines.
   - Jetties and wharfs
     Five rural airstrips will be improved through collaboration with the Rural Airstrip Agency (RAA).

3. Jetties and wharfs
   - The programme seeks to improve river transport by installing jetties/wharfs in collaboration with local government and communities.

Capacity building of stakeholders

- Capacity building of stakeholders (government, contractors and local communities) in road rehabilitation and maintenance using labour-based technology,
- Development and implementation of web-based Road Transport Information Management System (PNG-RoTIMS) for planning, implementation and monitoring of infrastructure works using mobile phone applications,
- Updating road specifications and development of work norms,
- Contract procurement and management,
- Preparation of guidelines for DoWH on road maintenance and occupational safety and health,

The ILO Outcome 3.2: Increased capacity of member states to formulate and implement policies and strategies for creating decent work in rural economies.

ILO Country Program Outcome (CPO) 131: Job seekers in particular young women and men in the rural economies have access to climate resilient and good jobs.
Fact sheet – STREIT infrastructure works

- Introduction of ILO Decent Work standards including occupational safety and health in construction,
- Financial linkages and wage payments to RMGs through individual bank accounts and mobile wallets,
- GIS mapping of infrastructure, services and production in the project area.

Achievements to Date
- Local Road User Committees formed and trained for project oversight and sustainability,
- Collaboration with MiBank providing individual bank accounts for monthly wage payments to road maintenance workers.
- Designed and established PNG-RoTMS and Mobile Monitoring System for PNG. It can be assessed through link: http://pngrutims.softavi.com
- Guidelines prepared for routine road maintenance carried out by community groups and OSH.
- 162 RMG workers (51% women, 35% youth) providing routine maintenance and repairs on 18 local roads, totalling 312 km.
- 112,298 workdays of paid employment generated up to June 2023.
- 26% of physical progress achieved in ongoing 11 road rehabilitation contracts of 170 km in length.
- Signed contract agreement with the Rural Airstrip Agency (RAA) for restoration of airstrips in East and West Sepik region.
- In collaboration with provincial administrations, ILO is undertaking an assessment and design of jetties to facilitate river transport.
- Altogether, 909 staff from government, local contractors and communities trained in road rehabilitation and maintenance works.
- Terms of reference prepared for updating technical specifications and development of work norms for Department of Works and Highways.
- Developing road maintenance and occupational safety and health guidelines for DoWH.

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