



► ILO HIMO MINHDU project update

December 2023

Implementation of activities for the development of urban infrastructure and the creation of decent jobs for young people in the cities of Maroua and Bamenda to strengthen peace and socio-economic resilience.
News update on the implementation of Employment Intensive investment programme (EIIP) in Bamenda Northwest Region of Cameroon.

Key points

- The International Labour Office and the Government of the Republic of Cameroon signed a cooperation agreement for the implementation in Cameroon of a project for the development of urban infrastructure and the creation of decent jobs for young people through the optimal use of HIMO approaches in the construction of urban infrastructure in Maroua and Bamenda. The project is financed by the Government of Cameroon and the French Development Agency and is part of the "C2D Regional Capitals" Program.
- This news brief is to inform on the ILO's intervention in these crisis zones and particularly on how employability and decent works are being promoted and the employment intensive investment programme has been used to address the two key problems of employability and realization of sustainable development projects. This article covers on the implementation of the EIIP project and includes human interest stories of people who have been affected by the socio political crisis of Northwest and Southwest Regions. It shows how they have been able to gain a livelihood through the recruitment program.

Update on activities

The ongoing collaboration between the government of the Republic of Cameroon represented by MINH DU and the International Labour Organisation aims to provide onsite training to youths of the Bamenda in Employment Intensive Investment Programme. With this perspective about 122 youths have been employed directly or indirectly (82 males and 40 females). Besides improving entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills, the training will also help create jobs, linking the youths to enterprises that will provide them with either self or other employment opportunities for livelihood. The project is currently

carrying out an infrastructure intervention in Bamenda I council area, namely the construction of a 540ml road from the transport office to the state counsel's chambers with pavement blocks.

This month's activity was focused on the following:

1. production of pavement blocks of which over 50 000 pavers of 10 cm thickness have been produced ;
2. the start of backfills and levelling of the road stretch with earth and crushed gravel of diameter 0.31,5 over a distance of 300ml has been realised.

At the start of the project, gutters were first of all constructed after which the workers proceeded to the production of the pavement stones and presently, preparatory works for the placement of the pavement stones are ongoing.

Project achievements

- The production of over 100000 pavement blocks
- The training of 200 youths in the domain of pavement production and road construction with pavement blocks at the end graduating them as technicians
- The re-gouping of this youths to form Associations and Cooperatives in the various trades presented in the project
- The training of various sectorial authorities and economic operators on the importance of using EIIP approach in the realization of project



Cuts being performed on the road using the traditional method (PK 0+000 that's opposite transport office) (ILO).



Backfill from borrow pit being leveled on the road using the traditional method (PK 0+385 that's besides court of first instance) (ILO).



Backfill with crushed gravel from quarry trainees taking levels being leveled on the road using the traditional method (PK 0+050) (ILO).

Impact stories

EIIP has brought and is bringing changes in the lives of many youths in the socio-political crisis region of the North west in Cameroon. It should be recalled that with the ongoing crisis, there has been a growing insecurity which has caused most youths not to attend regular schooling since formal education has been the most controversial subject. This crisis has pushed so many youths from the North West Region to seek for refuge in other safe areas around the Region and the nation at large. A few, who have not been able to attend schools, and who are still in Bamenda are in need of decent vocational jobs to foster their mental development and to enable them make ends meet.

Nfor Jackline

When the project started many people were informed on the recruitment.

Amongst those that were recruited is Mrs. Nfor Jackline, an IDP (internally displaced person) from Ndop whose husband was killed as a result of the crisis and she has to fend for her six children and herself. Her children for lack of funds have not been able to attend school for the past two years with one of the children being epileptic. She has been working in this project as a labourer since it started in August 2023 and covers approximately 5km every day to come to the project site. She confesses that the project has been a blessing to her because with the income earned from it, she can conveniently send her children to school, feed well and even buy her epileptic child's drugs without too much stress. Aside the financial benefits, she has also acquired life skills which will go a long way to empower her even after the project. For instance, she can mix the right quantities of material to produce pavement blocks, she can construct gutters and even do pointing of stone masonry constructions.



Madam Nfor Jackline serious at her wok carrying pavement blocks for laying (ILO).

Appreciating the project for the impact it has on her life, she says: "I want to thank ILO for this project and that God should bless them so that they can bring more projects because it is through this project that I have been able to care for myself and children and have also acquired skills that can prepare me for subsequent employment opportunities".

Abdoul Karimu

Abdoul Karimu is of the minority Mbororo community. He says he has benefitted a lot from this project both financially, socially and technically. According to him, he has been able to take care of himself, support his family back in the village and even pay his rents from the pay he receives as a result of being part of the project. Socially, he has made a lot of friends from different background though having a common interest which is to help each other grow. In addition, technically, he has been able to learn how to build gutters, produce pavement stones, position and read spirit levels when constructing gutters and above all he has learned how to operate a compactor.

He says: "I am very delighted and thanks the ILO body and the Bamenda city council for the opportunity given to me not only to benefit financially but also I have been able to develop skills which have empowered me and has prepared me for future opportunities. Initially, I was not a technician but now I can proudly say I am one because of the what I have learned and practiced in this project site."



Abdoul Karimu serious at wok laying pavement blocks (ILO).

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