

TIMworks Project

Investment Budget Execution Support for Rural Infrastructure Development and Employment Generation

Total	: USD 8,304,670
Donor contribution	: US\$ 5,911,870
Government contribution	: US\$ 2,392,800
End date	: January 2010
Implementing partners	: Secretary of State for Vocational Training and Employment, International Labour Organisation
Donors	: Kingdom of Norway US\$ 2,499,453. European Commission and Kingdom of Ireland have pledged the balance

The TIM Works was developed at a time when Timor-Leste non-oil GDP had stagnated and the economy was increasingly demonstrating its inability to generate jobs/work opportunities and creating ground for continued cycles of instability that prevent development and promote further social unrest.

The Investment Budget Execution Support for Rural Infrastructure Development and Employment Generation (TIM Works), is to contribute to employment generation, poverty reduction, economic growth and peace building through the rehabilitation, construction and maintenance of rural infrastructure using labour-based (equipment supported) work methods. The Project reflects the Government of Timor-Leste Development Strategy and will address the following key challenges for poverty reduction in Timor-Leste: (i) Providing sustainable and productive employment opportunities for a rapidly growing labour force; (ii) Improving poor access to social services and markets; (iii) Private sector development support; (iv) Improving and maintaining rural infrastructure; and (v) Human resource development and institutional strengthening.

The project forms part of an overall strategy which links to and evolves from recent Cash for Work programmes which has provided temporary employment, to more sustainable employment in the infrastructure sector in which major Government investment is now being planned and which can result in significant additional jobs provided that a more labour-based approach is incorporated.

Recognising the enormous twin challenges of job creation and need for infrastructure improvement, the project aims to institutionalise labour-based technology and methodologies within the regular public works programmes.

The Project will review, amend and introduce new procedures and techniques aiming at increasing the impact of rural infrastructure investments on poverty reduction, employment creation, crisis prevention, and community-level social stability. The Project will develop strategies and policy positions, procedures and guidelines for labour-based road maintenance and contracting, and advise, guide and support the government in these matters.

The project aims to rehabilitate 300 km of roads, provide periodic maintenance essentially consisting of improvement of problem spots totalling 36 km of roads and establish routine maintenance on 1,500 km of roads in different districts. This should generate some 1,039,000 workdays of employment, reaching some 23,500 beneficiaries of which 30% will be women.

The Project will also raise the capacity of the government and the private contracting sector to improve, maintain and manage (and supervise) the road network using appropriate sustainable labour-based techniques. This will ensure that public investment in rural infrastructure creates jobs and builds skills in an efficient manner while developing and sustaining the road assets of Timor-Leste. This will, in turn, improve accessibility, enhance transport and contribute to poverty alleviation.

Development Objective

The development objective of the TIM-Works is to contribute to economic development and poverty reduction, whilst the immediate objective of the project is livelihood improvement and social stability in rural communities through rural infrastructure development and employment generation



Project strategy

The overall strategic framework for addressing the prevailing socio-economic challenges in Timor-Leste through this Project consists of: (a) Cash for Work (CFW) programmes, which can quickly provide work and place cash in the hands of vulnerable persons, and (b) Restarting and accelerating more sustainable economic activities such as infrastructure works programmes using labour-based work methods. The restarting of more sustainable economic activities needs to include accelerating skills development for employment, the development of the local construction industry and building sufficient capacity in the public sector to manage the increased volume of works in a timely and professional manner. This can be realized provided that there is a solid commitment by the Government with donor support to adopt these work methods as a mainstream approach in its public works programmes.



The Government of Timor-Leste with support from the ILO and funding from EU has recently concluded a CFW programme thereby proving that large numbers of jobseekers can be provided employment while at the same time protecting past infrastructure investments as well as developing new infrastructure assets in the rural areas. The current challenge facing such programmes is the necessary transition from being project interventions with a limited period during which these services are provided, to building long-term arrangements in which these types of employment as well as infrastructure services are provided on a continuous basis.

The project is executed and implemented by the ILO with the National Division of Employment of the SEFOPE as the key government counterpart institution with strong links to the Ministry of Infrastructure, Directorate of Roads, Bridges and Flood Control and the Ministry of Economy and Development.

There is a demand for qualified tradesmen in the fields of carpentry, masonry, concrete works, motor mechanics and road works supervisors. Training institutions in the country already provide courses in some of these trades while others will have to be established. The project will link up with ongoing vocational training projects to ensure sufficient recruitment of skilled artisans. There is also a need to establish permanent training facilities for the trades which the vocational training centres in the country still do not provide.

The District Employment Centres (DECs) under the Secretariat of State for Vocational Training and Employment for the job-mediation and registration of labourers and employers will serve the purpose of bringing skilled and unskilled labour in contact with small-scale (road) contractors. The DECs are envisaged to take up responsibilities for contract mediation and processing. The centres may fulfil an important role in information dissemination of labour rights, complaint handling and extension services with regard to gender equality promotion, occupational health and safety including HIV/AIDS prevention and Environmental protection.

Target groups/beneficiaries

The Project will target:

30 Government counterpart staff (engineers, supervisors, and technicians) within the Secretariat of State for Vocational Training and Employment and the Ministry of Infrastructure who will be trained in all aspects of Labour Based (LB) methods in road contract system and supported in budget development and planning.

75 contractors of Classes A, B, and C who will be trained in all LB methods and awarded road contracts through a competitive bidding process

100 community contractors who will be engaged in routine maintenance

The project activities will generate short-term employment to at least 23,500 unskilled workers generating some 1,039,000 work days, at least 30% being women.

Funded by:



Implementing by:

