



# ► EIIP Country Brief

December 2022

## ► Sudan Project Brief

**Building community resilience with young people in Mayo Suburb of Khartoum through improved access to water**

### Key points

- Funded by the Japan Supplementary Fund (JSB), this brief describes the project activities implemented in the Mayo suburb of Khartoum. The project applies an employment-intensive approach in building community resilience with young people through improved access to sustainable water supplies, better sanitation practices, improved access road, and protection to persons living in the project area and flood-affected communities in Madela, Gabush, Angola and Yarmuk.

## ► Background

Due to lockdown and confinement measures of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sudan has faced a devastating impact due to the country's fragile socio-economic infrastructure. Water access and sanitation infrastructure have been among of the country's most pressing challenges making it difficult for people to comply with the government's restrictions and sanitary advice on frequent hand washing, physical distancing, and sanitizing work sites. Such advice presumes people's access to water and sanitary facilities, as well as sewage systems, shelters, and housing; even though, in some suburban areas of Khartoum – the epicentre of the pandemic in Sudan – such as Mayo Suburb, these conditions are not a given.

In addition, climate change in Sudan and unprecedented rainfalls in 2019 and 2020 have resulted in an increasing number of natural disasters at historical levels. Due to heavy rainfall, the Blue Nile that connects to the White Nile in Khartoum recorded the highest water level in 100 years. The flooding that affected Khartoum in July 2020 has resulted in the entire/partial destruction of

160,000 households, over 120 casualties, 54 injuries, affecting over 830,000 people in the capital city.

An emergency assessment conducted in many districts within Mayo Suburb of Khartoum revealed that thousands of families are without proper housing and access to sanitary facilities. This is due to recurring heavy floods in August 2019 and 2020 that had flooded a water canal in western areas of Mayo Suburb used for farming purposes, bursting into residential areas in the vicinity. As a result, 2883 families lost their homes and evacuated to elevated areas where they created temporary shelters.

In other parts of Mayo, 2028 families found their houses partially damaged and no longer have access to sanitary facilities. 53 of the existing 84 hand pumps, which constitute the main source of water in the area, are currently broken.

In other words, local communities in Mayo Suburb need to access water to mitigate the risk of the virus as well as for their basic survival, and yet water does not reach them. The 2020 floods have worsened this situation and the Mayo community has been hit particularly hard.

## ► The Project

The project started in April 2021 and ended in November 2022 with the aim to enhance water access and governance in Mayo Suburb of Khartoum. The project applied the EIIP employment-intensive approach through four pillars:

- ▶ Rehabilitation of water access facilities and drainage systems in Mayo Suburb, Khartoum, that serve to over 260,000 inhabitants, creating direct employment opportunities for male and female members of the Mayo community.
- ▶ Capacity building on water and sanitation maintenance related skills development for young women and men participants to support members of the local community to obtain employment during as well as after project completion.
- ▶ Awareness on occupational safety and health (OSH) principles during and after the COVID-19 crisis to enable workers in the construction sectors to protect themselves and others.
- ▶ Capacity building support for evidence-based national investment planning, allowing local authorities and ministerial counterparts to plan for infrastructure investments and explore the feasibility of the EIIP approach to plan and prepare for recurring seasonal floods.



The project targets vulnerable members of the affected communities in Mayo Suburb, in a community-based participatory manner. Specifically, the project targets young women and men without job opportunities including people with disabilities, for employment intensive construction works, as well as training local community members on maintenance, plumbing, masonry and entrepreneurship, thereby stabilizing their livelihoods during and after the crisis through public works.



Special attention is paid to the recruitment of high numbers of women with a target of at least 40% of female workers, including for training in non-traditional occupations. Similarly, during the procurement procedures, enterprises with female representatives gained additional scores and were prioritized.

The ILO worked with government authorities as well as private enterprises to sensitize them to facilitate the participation of women in the project activities. This is especially important in the construction sector where women are particularly discriminated. Yet its final product (water facilities) significantly influences women in their daily lives, where they are often responsible for most care and domestic work and hence take responsibility for sanitary standards in the household.

The project forged a partnership agreement with Community Road Empowerment (CORE), a Japanese NGO for the implementation of the rehabilitation of 3.25km feeder road and functional drainage system as identified from the needs of roads rehabilitation.

The CORE used appropriate engineering, employment intensive, and environment-friendly technologies to directly address the needs of the most vulnerable groups in the community, which the ILO strongly promotes in the context of Sudan.

## ► Achievements

### Rehabilitation of water access facilities:

- ▶ Forty (40) water pumps were rehabilitated to enhance the community's access to safe-water facilities;
- ▶ The construction of 3 pit latrines were completed in girls' school, health Centre Saido and public marketplace in the project area Mayo. 200 workers were recruited and oriented through theoretical classroom session and on-the-job trainings before the recruitment;
- ▶ Two submersible pumps with an elevated solar-operated water tank were upgraded to connect water to the sanitation facilities, one at Saido Health Centre and another Arahma School in Mandella;
- ▶ Through employment-intensive approach with "Do-Nou" technique and using optimum locally available materials, the road infrastructure rehabilitation component recruited 300 workers and created 17,800 person days of employment, among them 42% were women, 58% men and 5% PWDs.



### Capacity building:

A training program was developed to implement the water and road infrastructure rehabilitation works. The training program included 5 trainings courses for 500 targeted participants that included:

- ▶ Training on Road Rehabilitation and Do-Nou Technology conducted by the CORE team with the aim of instilling Do-nou Technology methodology of road rehabilitation to the target beneficiaries;

▶ Conceptual training by Water Environment and Sanitation engineer aiming to provide the technical concept on the handpump maintenance including the tools and materials required for maintenance;

▶ Water management and administration training to 200 youths including community youth leader to enhance the safely use of water and its management;

In collaboration with ITCILO, the project sensitized beneficiaries on Start Your Business (SYB). 20 youths benefitted from the training and were later assigned to road and water works. Also, the "Improved Your Business (IYB)" course was organised for 20 business entrepreneurs.



**Occupational safety and health (OSH):** Activities on occupational safety heath (OSH) and CoVID-19 mitigation put emphasis on training on basic principles and importance of OSH and COVID-19 protocols in the implementation of infrastructure works.



**Capacity building support for evidence-based national investment planning:** The Sudanese governmental officials of Federal Ministry of Labour, Khartoum States, Kassala States, implementing partners and ILO officials were trained on the Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning (IRAP) methodologies a participatory planning tools for analysing the accessibility of the public infrastructure services of rural and urban communities. Participants were trained on the development and setting of standard questionnaires for IRAP tool systemization in the context of Sudan and mapping of those selected and prioritised services using Quantum Geographic Information System (QGIS).



- ▶ Out of 500 workers recruited for road and water infrastructure rehabilitation work 5% of PWDs were employed;
- ▶ PWDs were included in business skill training such as rehabilitation of road and water facilities, SIYB training and IYB training.



#### Gender equality and social inclusion:

- ▶ The women's participation was ensured through their engagement in road infrastructure rehabilitation works by providing employment opportunities to 40% of them. Among facilities established these included providing pregnant and nursing mothers with flexible working hours for antenatal care and breastfeeding respectively. Women were also allowed to swap roles with colleagues whenever they were unable to report to work;
- ▶ A women engineer was appointed for the supervision of road rehabilitation works;

## ► Lessons Learnt

- ▶ There should be a schedule for routine maintenance and repair of the road to keep it in good to fair condition;
- ▶ Involvement of women in the sensitisation and other community engagements provided them with the opportunity to highlight their needs and influence decision making process;
- ▶ Working with local institutions and engaging with community members was important for capacity development and sustainability of project.

## Key ILO Resources

Series: Guides for Integrated Rural Access Planning and Community Contracting in the Water and Sanitation sector , International Labour Office, 2017 [http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/employment-intensive-investment/publications/WCMS\\_544488/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/employment-intensive-investment/publications/WCMS_544488/lang--en/index.htm)

Illustrated guidelines for gender-responsive employment intensive investment programmes. Geneva, International Labour Office, 2016 [https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/employment-intensive-investment/publications/WCMS\\_459976/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/employment-intensive-investment/publications/WCMS_459976/lang--en/index.htm)

Local Resource-Based Approaches in Water Works , International Labour Organization, 2019 [wcms\\_719955.pdf](http://wcms.ilo.org/wcms_719955.pdf) ([ilo.org](http://ilo.org))

Improvement of Water Supply Equipment Management Capacity for the Establishment of Peace in Mindanao International Labour Office, 2020 [https://labordoc.ilo.org/discovery/delivery/41ILO\\_INST:41ILO\\_V1/1271839630002676](https://labordoc.ilo.org/discovery/delivery/41ILO_INST:41ILO_V1/1271839630002676)

Employment-Intensive Infrastructure Programmes: Technical note on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions in response to COVID-19 International Labour Office, 2020 [https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/employment-intensive-investment/WCMS\\_744731/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/employment-intensive-investment/WCMS_744731/lang--en/index.htm)

### Contact details

**International Labour Organization**  
Route des Morillons 4  
CH-1211 Geneva 22  
Switzerland

T: +41 22 799 6111  
E: [eiip@ilo.org](mailto:eiip@ilo.org)  
[www.ilo.org/eiip](http://www.ilo.org/eiip)