
Supporting local authorities on rural roads HIMO in Burkina Faso



HELVETAS Swiss
Intercooperation Burkina Faso

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Introduction



- HELVETAS promotes the HIMO approach (high labor intensity) in Burkina Faso since 2002 and the start of its country program.
- The approach is mainly integrated in infrastructures projects in particular for the construction of rural roads and improving accessibility of villages in rural Burkina Faso.
- HELVETAS has built a solid experience in supporting the central, regional and local government but also the private sector in the construction and maintenance of rural roads according to the HIMO methodology.

- HELVETAS had until today implemented **8 projects promoting the HIMO approach in 7 regions and 31 municipalities.**
- Two of these programmes are currently being implemented and financed Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the World Bank.
- This experience has allowed to **consolidate the approach**, learn and adapt on the technical standards required by the context, support the development of management mechanisms compatible with the institutional framework.

Introduction



The success of the approach is mainly resulting from:

- **Acceptance and gradual ownership of national and local governments** on the HIMO approach and its contribution to reduce poverty and the creation of (short term) employment opportunities.
- **Alignment of intervention strategies to the decentralized state structure** and related local development policies



Overview of projets/programs and parterns



Nom du projet	Durée du projet	Montant	Source financement	Principaux résultats
Programme Pistes rurales Désenclavement à l'Est	2002-2015	15 750 000 CHF	SDC / DDC	300 km of rural roads
Projet de réhabilitation et d'entretien des pistes rurales dans les provinces de la Tapoa et du Koulpelgo	2011-2014	249 260 000 FCFA	AFD	20 km
Projet de construction d'infrastructures durables au profit des sinistrés des inondations YAGMA	2011-2014	3 870 146 300 F CFA	UE	10 846 mètres linéaires de caniveaux – Sewage system
Projet Cash for work – réhabilitation de pistes rurales	2012-2013	191 939 CHF	WFP, Chaine du bonheur, Medicor	57 km rural roads rahabilitated
Projet d'aménagement de 35 km de pistes rurales HIMO dans la région de l'Est du Burkina	2011 - 2013	735 000 CHF	Fonds Additionnel au Projet Sectoriel des Transports / IDA-World Bank	35 km rural roads
Programme d'appui à la Décentralisation et à la Participation Citoyenne	2015-2018	3 891 000 CHF	SDC/DDC	71 km of rural roads
Projet Emplois des Jeunes et Développement des Compétences	2016-2018	6 000 000 000 FCFA	World Bank	170 km rural raods

HIMO approach – Specificities and Added Value



- The **HIMO approach** (Haute Intensité de Main d'Œuvre – High Labor Intensity) implies replacing most of the « machine work » by « human-made » work.
- Men and women do most of the work themselves. This allows to generate additional revenues but also to directly transfer the technical knowledge that will be used by communities for maintaining the road.
- The HIMO approach also implies a rational use of local natural resources and the provision of the necessary material to execute the works.



HIMO approach – Specificities and Added Value



- Local populations actively participate in the construction after having received the necessary training.
- Their work is paid.
- The HMO approach is adapted to countries/contexts in which there are important needs of infrastructures and where local human and natural resources are under-utilized.
- When compared to machine work, the same investment allows to create 2x to 4x more employment, while supporting local ownership and favoring sustainability of the investments.



HIMO approach – Specificities and Added Value



In a socio-economic context where women are importantly discriminated, active participation of women in the works is also a success of the program



Principal stages in supporting partners



- The objective of HELVETAS is to support central level and local governments and their partners to effectively (when necessary) define and **master the technical, financial and institutional itineraries and requirements** for the construction and management of rural roads according to the HIMO method.

For this purpose, support covers the following dimensions:

- **Support to planning and identifying needs of local authorities:** in Burkina Faso, the construction of rural roads is a regional competence, with a participation of municipalities. Municipalities are supported in identifying the needs, submitting their demands to the regional level.

Principal stages in supporting partners



- **The regional level** is supported in setting priorities and in setting-up the necessary arbitration/selection mechanisms and criteria, including socio-economic and technical considerations.
- **The private sector** (construction companies and engineers offices) are familiarized to the HIMO approach and trained if interested.
- **«Pilot worksite»** (“chantiers écoles”) are organized to demonstrate the approach and train the various actors for the creation of local expertise (private sector: from construction companies to local masons).

Principal stages in supporting partners



- Establishment of a mechanisms for **social mobilization / intermediation**: raising awareness of the population, recruitment of the interested local workforce, support the prevention and resolution of possible conflicts, support the municipality for the creation of the village committees who will be in charge of the maintenance of the tracks ... This work of social mobilization is done before, during and after the work.



- Construction works by selected companies (the project support the municipalities in the tendering processes), under the control of an engineering company (also contracted by the municipality) and the project technical staff.

Specificities and lesson learned



- Workforce recruited among the local population
- Use of local natural resources (sand, etc.)
- Strong commitment and gradual ownership of local authorities as a must
- Limited time available for construction works (bearing in mind other economic activities of local populations and weather)
- Regular payment of workforce better than big amount over longer timeframes. Otherwise risk of demobilization.

Reference documents (in French)



- **Technical reference document for the construction of rural roads in HIMO** (« Référentiel technique de mise en œuvre des pistes rurales par la méthode HIMO »)
- **Guiding document for the management / maintenance of rural roads** (« Le document guide pour l'entretien des pistes rurales »)
- **Impact study** on rural roads in Burkina Faso - impact of improving accessibility of villages and the implementation of the HIMO method
- **Detailed guidance for budgeting** the construction of rural roads.
- **Manual** for joint diagnostic on the construction of transport infrastructures at village level.
- Other reports and evaluations of the project (internal and external)

Thank you!

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