



## Construction/rehabilitation of the Ali-Sabieh – Assamo rural feeder road

The rehabilitation project for the Ali-Sabieh and Assamo rural feeder road has reduced transport costs for agricultural products and people from the agricultural village of Assamo. This has in turn increased the returns from trade between the village of Assamo and the city of Ali-Sabieh

### Introduction

Djibouti is situated in the Horn of Africa and has a total surface area of about 23,000 km<sup>2</sup>. About 5,000 km<sup>2</sup> area of this is covered by territorial waters and lakes. The current population is approximately 1,000,000.

The road network in Djibouti is comprised of various types of roads. They are classified as urban roads, national roads and district roads. National roads stretch to a total of 1,193 km and district roads total 1,700 km. 430 km are reported by the Ministry of Transport as paved road and 763 km are reported as not paved. Of the non-paved roads 311 km are considered by the ministry as priority roads whereas the rest (452 km) are non-priority roads.

Djibouti's national policies and strategies for poverty reduction and strengthening of food security clearly place a special emphasis on actions to strengthen road infrastructure as a key component in the implementation of the rural development framework.

These include the Djibouti vision 2035 and the Strategy of Accelerated Growth and promotion of Employment (SCAPE). The impact of poor roads in rural areas is that the rural population cannot easily access social services and markets. Another impact that is detrimental to the populations is that in case of emergencies the aid assistance arrives late. The principal objective of upgrading and constructing the existing gravel/earth roads to bitumen standard is to create

a link within the targeted areas and to the main arteries of the highway network. This will thereby integrate these areas into the main economic and social centres of the country. The Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Programme in the Horn of Africa (DRSLP I) is a multinational programme financed by the African Development Bank.

The overall objective of DRSLP I is to improve resilience to drought and climate change, through sustainable livelihood development for nomadic pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. As part of the implementation of the Programme, the rehabilitation project for the Ali-Sabieh - Assamo rural feeder road was selected. This is the only feeder road that will be bituminised.

The rehabilitation of the Ali-Sabieh - Assamo rural feeder road has been defined and designed to help address the challenge of rural accessibility and in particular, the opening up of agricultural production areas. The Ali-Sabieh-Assamo feeder road will serve the Assamo village and other surrounding settlements, with a total population of 9,000.

The specific objectives of the Ali-Sabieh - Assamo rural road rehabilitation project are to:

- Open up of the village of Assamo;
- Contribute to the economic development of the Assamo area and its regional integration by connecting it to the national road network;

- Increase the agricultural income of the village of Assamo by facilitating access of agricultural and pastoral products to existing marketing channels.

	<b>INTERVENTION AREA</b> Market access, trade and financial services
	<b>LOCATION</b> Ali-Sabieh, Assamo
	<b>STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS</b> •HAWK International Finance and Construction Company Limited. •Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Programme in the Horn of Africa (DRSLP I)
	<b>BENEFICIARIES</b> 9,000 people in Assamo village and neighbouring areas

### Methodological approach

The implementation of the project results from a participatory process of identifying priority actions for the development of the intervention zones.

An environmental and social strategic assessment was conducted before the DRSLP I resilience programme and the Strategic Framework for Environmental and Social Management (SCAPE) were developed. This was in accordance with the policy of the African Development Bank. These strategic documents were completed during the implementation of the project through the preparation of environmental and social management plans.

The plans were integrated into the technical studies, which ensured that the programme complied with the requirements of the Bank's environmental policy and also with the environmental policy and laws in force in Djibouti.

The initial study was concerned with the rehabilitation of the feeder road. However, following instructions from the President of the Republic for the road to be tarred, the design of the rehabilitation project was informed by additional studies, including the rehabilitation of the Ali-Sabieh and Assamo rural feeder road. The contract to construct the road was given to an international contractor, HAWK International Finance and Construction Company Limited.

The community provided the casual labour during construction. The rehabilitation works included:

- 25 km in length (PK 0 Kiosque dispensary at Ali-Sabieh to Assamo City Centre);
- 7 m wide (including 1 m of embankment, 1 m of shoulder and 5 m of roadway);
- 122 structures (including 85 culverts and 37 runways).

The entire road cost around US \$ 7 million of which 30% is from government contribution and the rest from AfDB.

### Results

The rehabilitation project for the Ali-Sabieh and Assamo rural feeder road has had a significant impact by opening up of the agricultural village of Assamo. Transport costs for agricultural products and people has reduced. This has in turn increased the returns from trade between the village of Assamo and the city of Ali-Sabieh.

There has also been a boost in job opportunities for young people, working as drivers or drivers' assistants. Opening up of this area has also contributed tremendously to tourism development.

The agro-pastoralist population of Assamo anticipates that the flow of their production towards the urban markets will improve their income by the increase of the commercial exchanges between the villages of Assamo and the city of Ali-Sabieh. The road is also expected to improve access to basic social services, like health and education.

### Sustainability

The Government of the Republic of Djibouti has decided to put asphalt pavement on the Ali-Sabieh and Assamo rural road. The project obtained additional funding from the Djiboutian State for the improvement of the paved road (bilayer).

### Replicability and upscaling

Rural rehabilitation studies in the Weima and Gaggadé-Derela watersheds are available. Agro-pastoralists in these areas are calling on the national government to replicate the rural feeder road. Funds have already been secured from DRSLP III to rehabilitate the feeder roads of Weima and Gaggadé-Derela.

The expertise and the necessary documents are available in Djibouti. Nevertheless, the high costs of the work make replicability difficult. The government plans to mobilise resources for the rehabilitation/construction of more feeder roads.


### Additional information

- Full design study to rehabilitate the Ali-Sabieh-Assamo road.
- Design study to bituminise the feeder road.
- Annual report of the DRSLP project December 2017.

### CONTACTS

IBRAHIM ELMI  
COORDINATOR OF DRSLP PROJECTS AND PERMANENT SECRETARY OF  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
ibrahimelmed@gmail.com

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD)  
P. O. Box 2653, Djibouti City, Djibouti  
www.igad.int / www.resilience.igad.int

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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