

Improving Mobility and Education

Capacity Development in the Transport Sector in Liberia

Background

GIZ's Capacity Development in the Transport Sector project has been active in Liberia for more than a decade. Numerous activities have been carried out to improve the transport sector since Liberia's road network is in an inadequate condition and does not extend to all regions of the country. Large areas are mostly or completely inaccessible during the rainy season, which slows down economic development. It is estimated that over half of the population does not have direct access to the public road network which exacerbates poverty, especially in rural areas, and has a negative impact on food security, educational opportunities and medical care. The inadequate quality and the underdevelopment of the road network have several interlinked causes:

- At governmental and legislative level, the lack of public administrative skills and insufficiently developed and enforced tendering procedures and rules, hamper the awarding of construction contracts to local firms.
- The private sector offers insufficient services due to a lack of training and a lack of qualified workers.
- Liberia's technical vocational education and training (TVET) sector is insufficiently aligned to the needs of the industry, suffers from inadequate funding, a lack of training materials and qualified trainers. As a result, young workers are undereducated for the work they do and do not hold the level of qualifications required for the job.

As a consequence, the (road) construction sector, one of the fastest growing sectors, is not able to realize its full potential and therefore large areas and basic human rights remain inaccessible.

The approach

In order to improve the general condition of the road network and ensure long-term maintenance, the project has been supporting the Ministry of Public Works in setting up a road infrastructure and bridge management system and advises the Road Safety Secretariat on road safety measures. Additionally, to restore the existing but inadequate road network, a National Road Fund, financed through a fuel levy, has been established.

To strengthen the planning skills within public administration and to improve the services provided by the Liberian construction companies, the Ministry of Public Works has been supported in establishing standardized bidding procedures for smaller road construction and maintenance works which specifically benefit local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Furthermore, Liberian SMEs from the construction sector receive trainings on how to become more competitive in public tendering procedures and practical support in managing and executing construction contracts with qualified personnel. Since 2012, the project has organized several short courses in road construction and maintenance for contractors which developed into a comprehensive vocational training for road technicians in 2018.

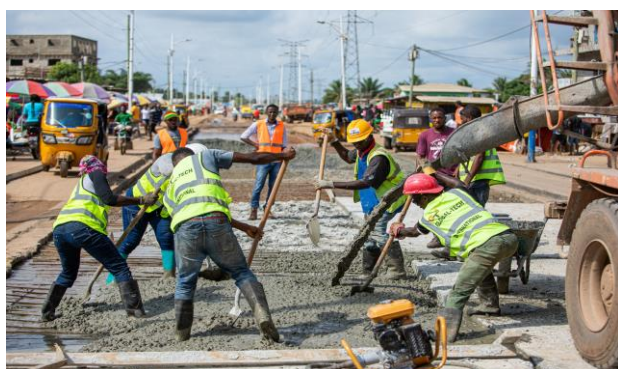
Building on this training, the project has since 2020 been establishing a technical vocational training centre for the construction industry which is led and owned by three private sector associations from the construction sector.

The state-of-the-art training centre will consist of several workshops, dormitories for 170 trainees as well as an ICT lab, an admin building and the accommodations for the trainers and the school director. Until the completion of the construction of the vocational school by the end of 2023, trainees are being trained in an interim training facility in three construction-related trades which are based on the demands of the private sector.



The European Union is contributing to the financing of the centre together with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Partners of the project are the Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Transport, Liberia National Police; others are the Booker Washington Institute, Association of Liberian Construction Contractors, Engineering Society of Liberia and Liberian Institute of Architects. Integration Consulting is supporting to train road maintenance technicians and to set up the vocational training centre.



Project name	Capacity Development in the Transport Sector in Liberia (CDTS)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the European Union
Country	Liberia
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
Main implementing partners	Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Association of Liberian Construction Contractors, Engineering Society of Liberia, Liberian Institute of Architects
Duration	2008 to 2024 (Current phase: 08/2019 to 07/2024)
Amount (Current Phase)	14,941,000 EUR (9,19m EUR BMZ and 5,75m EUR EU)

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The results

The project assisted with the adoption of the National Transport Master Plan (2012), the Axle Load Control Law (2015), and the establishment of the National Road Fund. Additionally, the project introduced a bridge and road infrastructure management system at the Ministry of Public Works and a standard bidding process for small and medium-sized road construction contracts.

A TVET centre owned by the private sector has been set-up in 2021 and registered as a non-for-profit centre. Three demand-based training programmes in construction-related trades were developed and are recognised by the Ministry of Education. Teaching and learning materials for the modular training program have been designed and developed in line with the needs of the private sector. 25 Trainers have been trained and to date 92 youths have completed their vocational training as road maintenance and construction technicians.

- 21 smaller and medium-sized road construction contracts have been awarded to and completed by Liberian SMEs under the newly introduced small works programme by the Ministry of Public Works.
- 676 working years of sustainable employment in road construction have been created under road construction projects implemented by Liberian SMEs.
- 83 SMEs have been trained in contract management, bid preparation, and calculation of bills of quantities.
- A total of 246 individuals have graduated from vocational training or short courses offered under the private sector led TVET centre.
- Working together with the Ministry of Transport and Liberian National Police, the project has drawn up reform documents and implemented measures that increase public awareness of road safety issues.

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