



Labour-based Road Construction Project (LBRC)

2018

<i>LBRC total budget</i>	<i>CHF 11.1 mio, 2014-2019</i>
<i>LBRC phase budget</i>	<i>CHF 8.7 mio, 2016-2019</i>
<i>Partner</i>	<i>Terre des Hommes, AF Iteco AG</i>
<i>Geographic focus</i>	<i>Rustaq, Takhar Province</i>



What does LBRC do?

The overall goal of LBRC is that men and women, girls and boys, especially from poor families living in Rustaq district, improve their livelihoods.

When poor families earn a reliable and fair income and gain driveable access to services and markets, their income, health and education status improves. When local institutions are engaged in the coordination and oversight of construction works, they develop monitoring and organizational capacities. The presence of strengthened local institutions and the access to markets and services result in improved livelihoods for the rural poor.

What has LBRC achieved so far?

During the one-year inception phase, an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment was conducted confirming the project's relevance: over 80% of respondents named year-round road access as a development priority for their village and stated their income sources depended directly on the road quality and their access to the market and governmental departments.

Construction of the road began in spring 2016. By July 2017, the following outputs had been achieved:

- Over 59'000 person-days of work have been created;
- 10 road construction groups with 20 members each are mobilized in 4 villages;
- 279 workers have worked for at least 3 months/year;
- 5 km of road have been completed and construction is ongoing on the remainder of the road;
- Provincial government representatives have met the project team and have visited the project site;
- 100 youths (50 boys and 50 girls) are engaged in vocational training and child protection activities.

Context

The rural poor in Afghanistan suffer from a lack of access to basic services and markets. Through predictable income, the rehabilitation of vital rural infrastructure and thereby ensuring access to services and markets, the project contributes to improve the lives of men, women and children.

Rustaq district is situated in the Northern Afghanistan province of Takhar, which borders Tajikistan. It is one of the largest districts in the country, with an estimated 200 villages and up to 300'000 inhabitants.

The twenty target villages in the two watersheds of Nooristan and Chokar are connected through a seasonal track road. Rain and snow often block the road or make driving extremely dangerous. Limited access to markets and services generates high costs (in terms of time and risks involved) and hampers development progress.



Ongoing construction works, Rustaq, Takhar Province, 2017, © SDC.