



EMPOWERING RURAL POOR THROUGH ROAD CONSTRUCTION: AN EXPERIENCE FROM HILE- BHOJPUR FEEDER ROAD PROJECT, NEPAL

Indu S. Dhakal

Department of Roads, Government of Nepal

Senior Divisional Engineer

ISDHAKAL@WLINK.COM.NP



Nepal

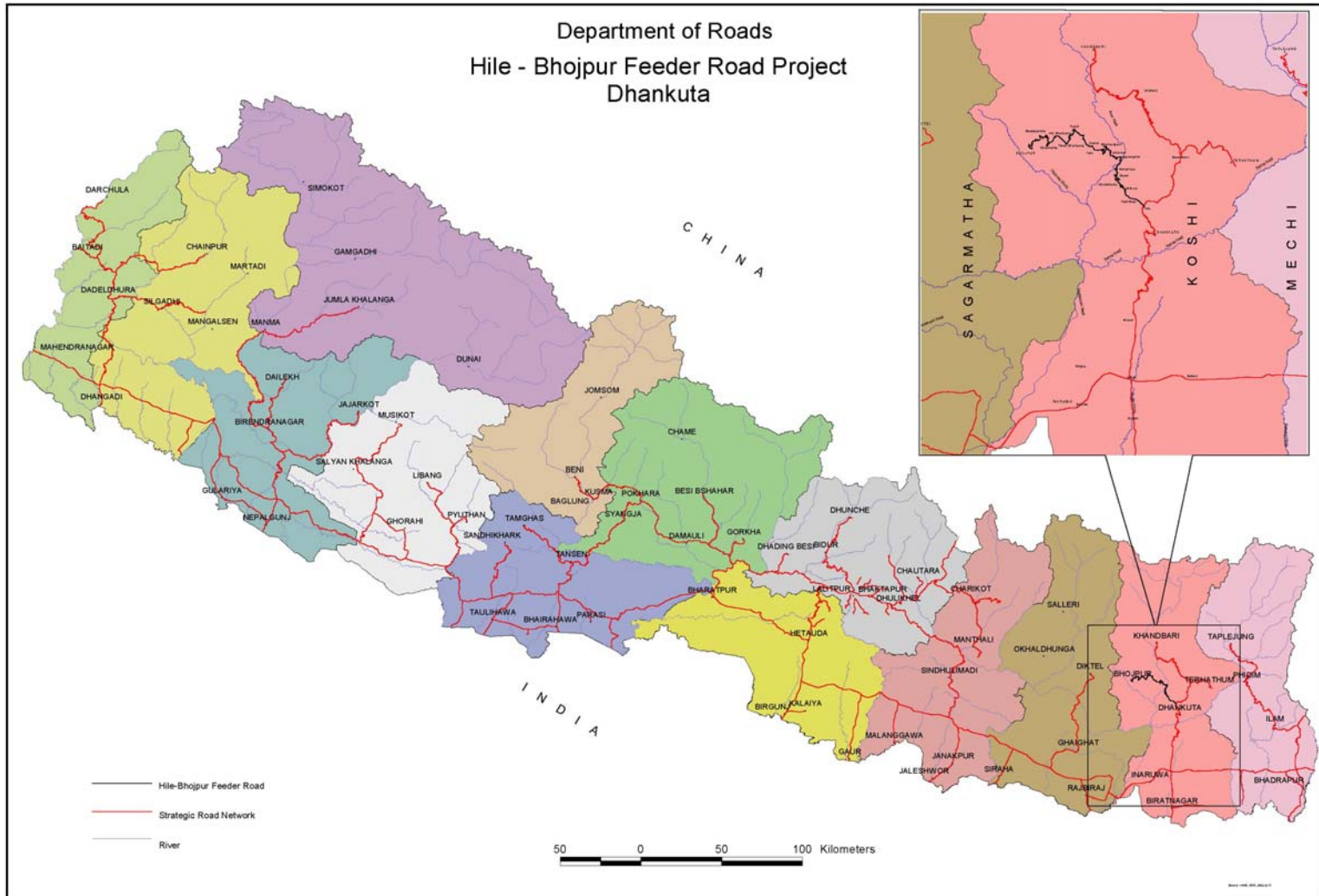
Hindu Kush - Himalayan Region



Map prepared by Gauri S. Dangol

Background image source: ESRI

Nepal



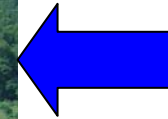
Road alignment



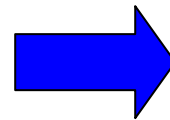
Desperate for road access



Transporting
goods by
people



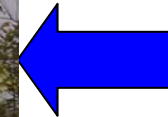
Transporting
goods by
animals



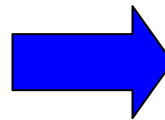
Desperate for road access



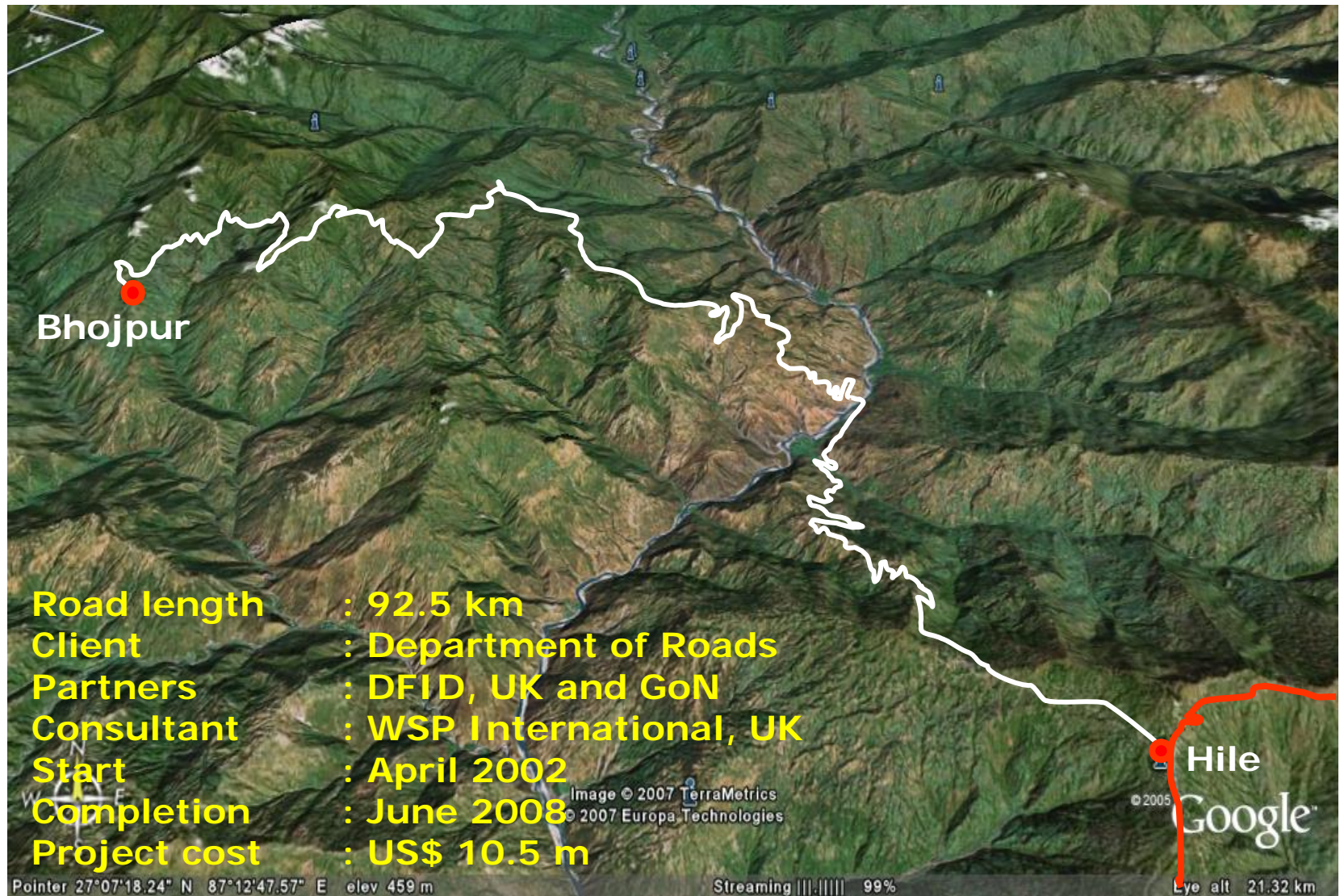
**An old man
being
carried out
of district**



**Human
ambulance
for an
emergency**

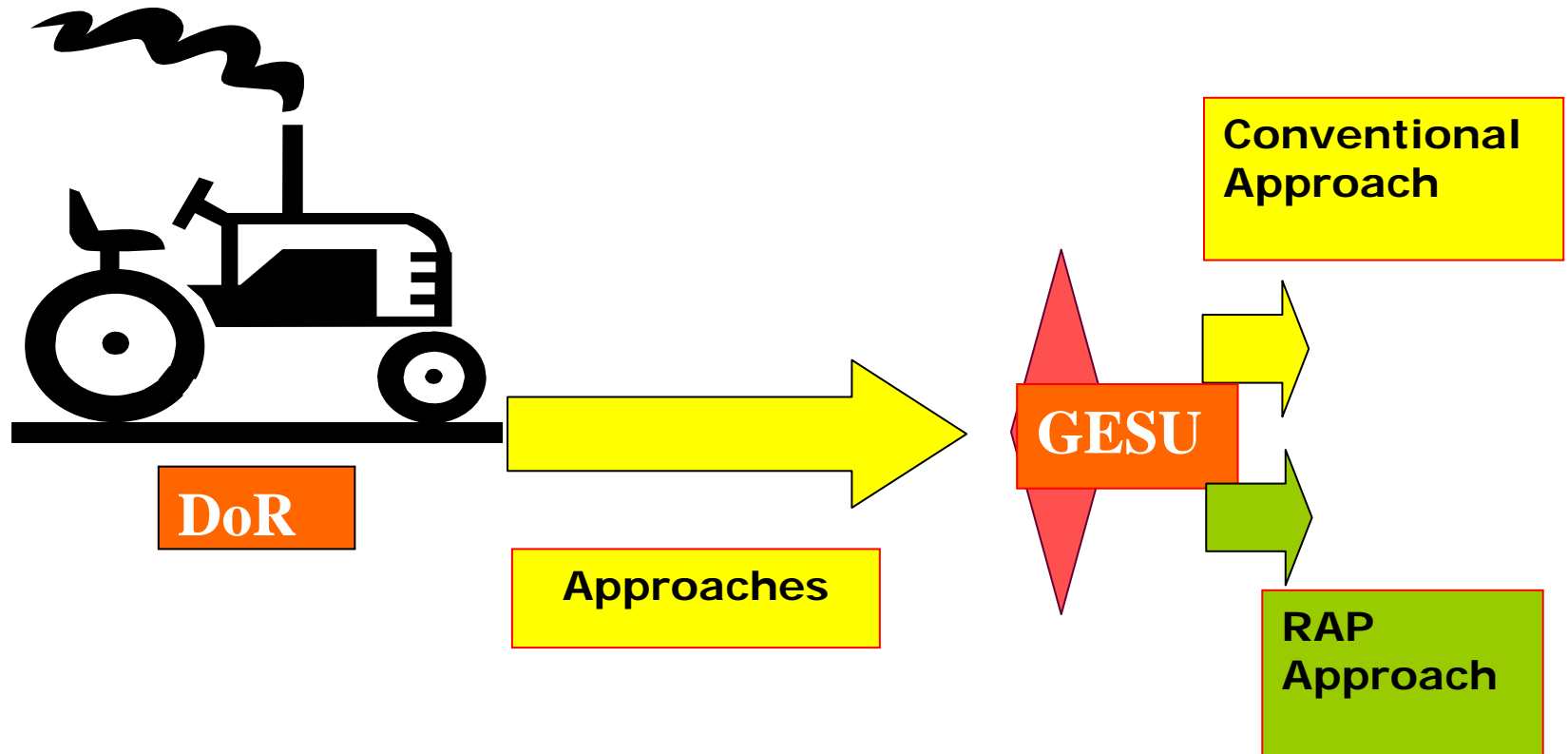


Road alignment

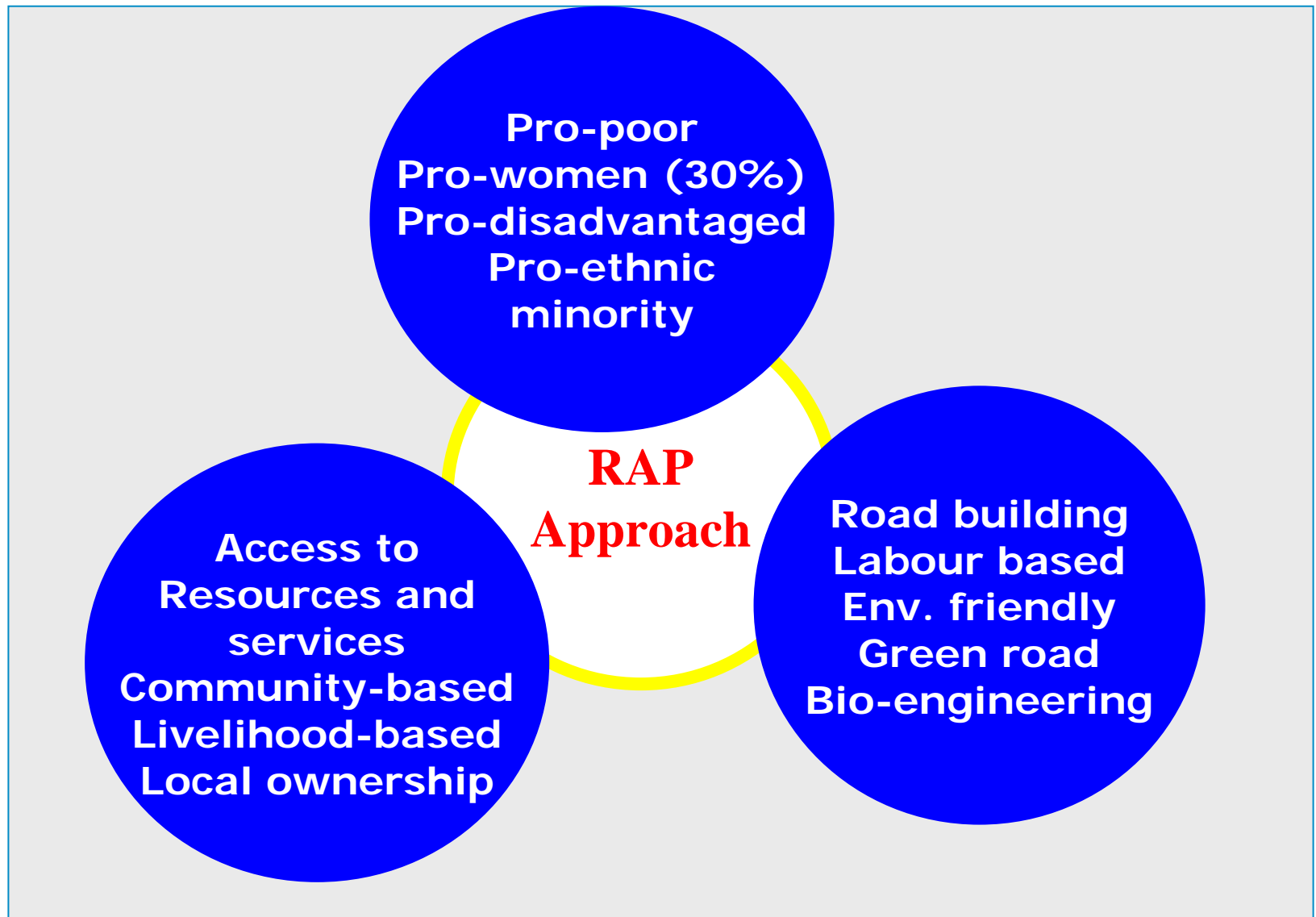


RAP approach

Designed on Poverty Reduction

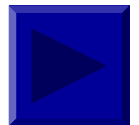


Rural Access Program (RAP)

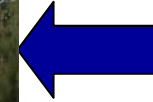


Modus operandi of RAP

- **Services (consultant & NGOs)**
- **Engineering survey and design, LAS**
- **Formation of RBGs, LRCCs**
- **Practical demonstration**
- **RBGs mobilisation, construction**
- **Savings, livelihood supports**
- **Contract for difficult structures**

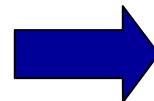


Phased construction



**First phase
2.5m track
opening**

**Gradual
widening to
4.5m wide road**



Labour-based construction



Above: Road construction in progress and

Right: finished road section



RBGs works limited to

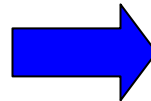
- **Earthworks**
- **Simple structures**
- **Bioengineering**

Bioengineering



Bio-engineering site during construction

Bio-engineering site after monsoon

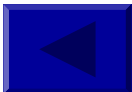


Environmentally friendly (Green Road)



**Left- uncontrolled site tipping
using bulldozer**

**Right - carefully retained fill
materials**



More employment opportunities

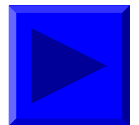


- a) Transporting GI wire for walls
- b) Manual gabion box weaving
- c) Finished gabion wall

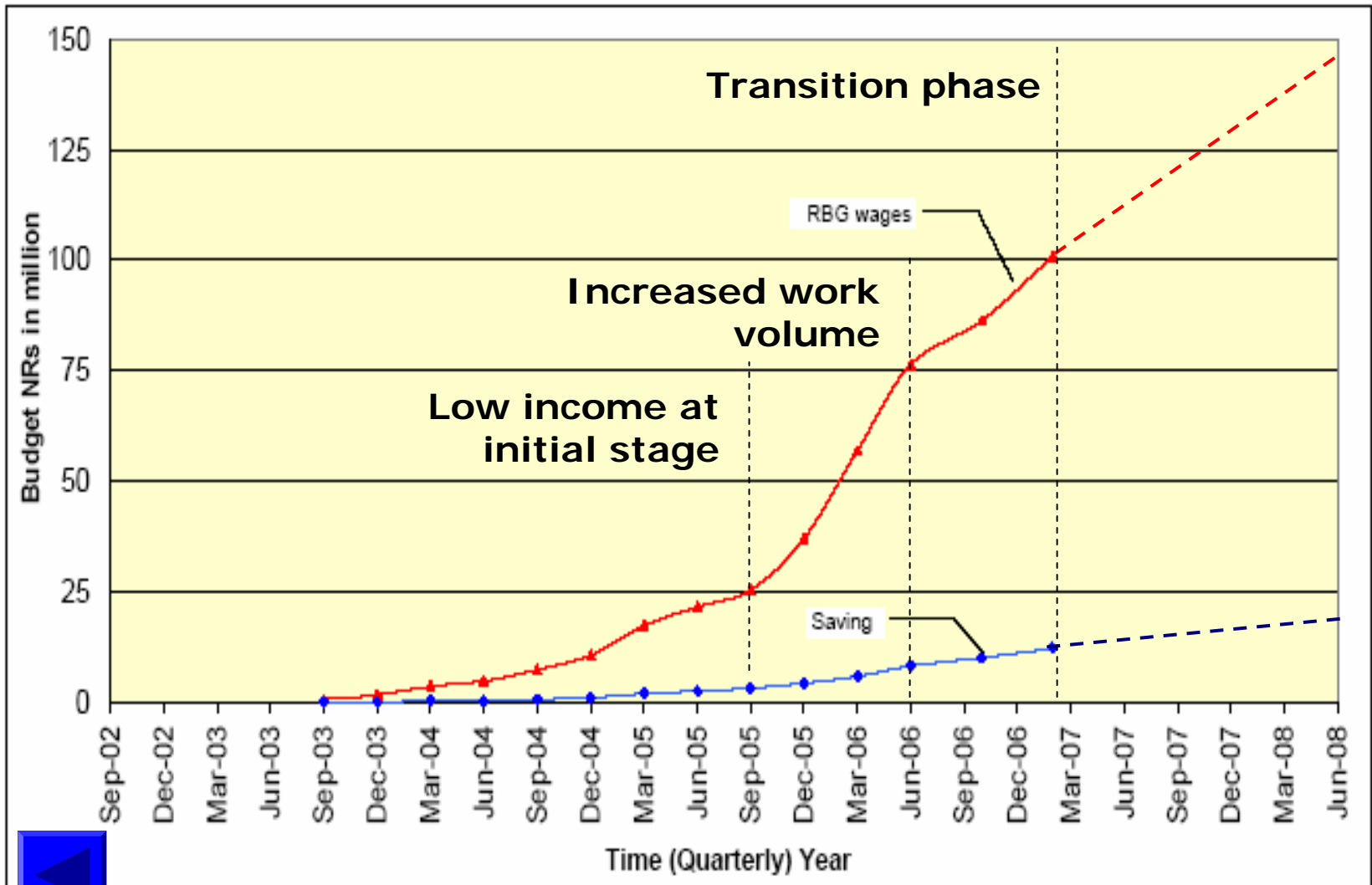


RBGs empowerment and EDAs

- Awareness on health and safety
- RBGs on Saving & Credits
- Provide literacy class, skills on leadership and group management.
- Book keeping & first aid trainings
- Conduct Public Audit (PA)
- Economic Development Activities



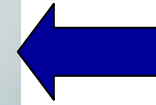
RBG wages payment & savings



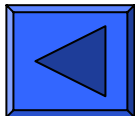
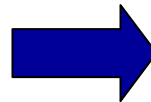
Group dynamism



Conducting
Public Audit for
transparency



Monthly meeting
for group
dynamism



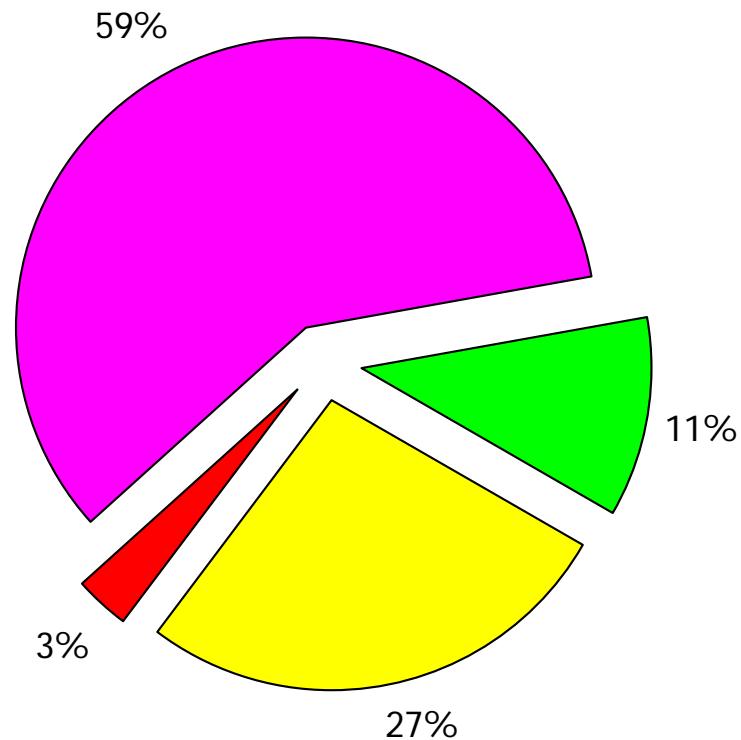
Group saving delivering returns



ED Activities



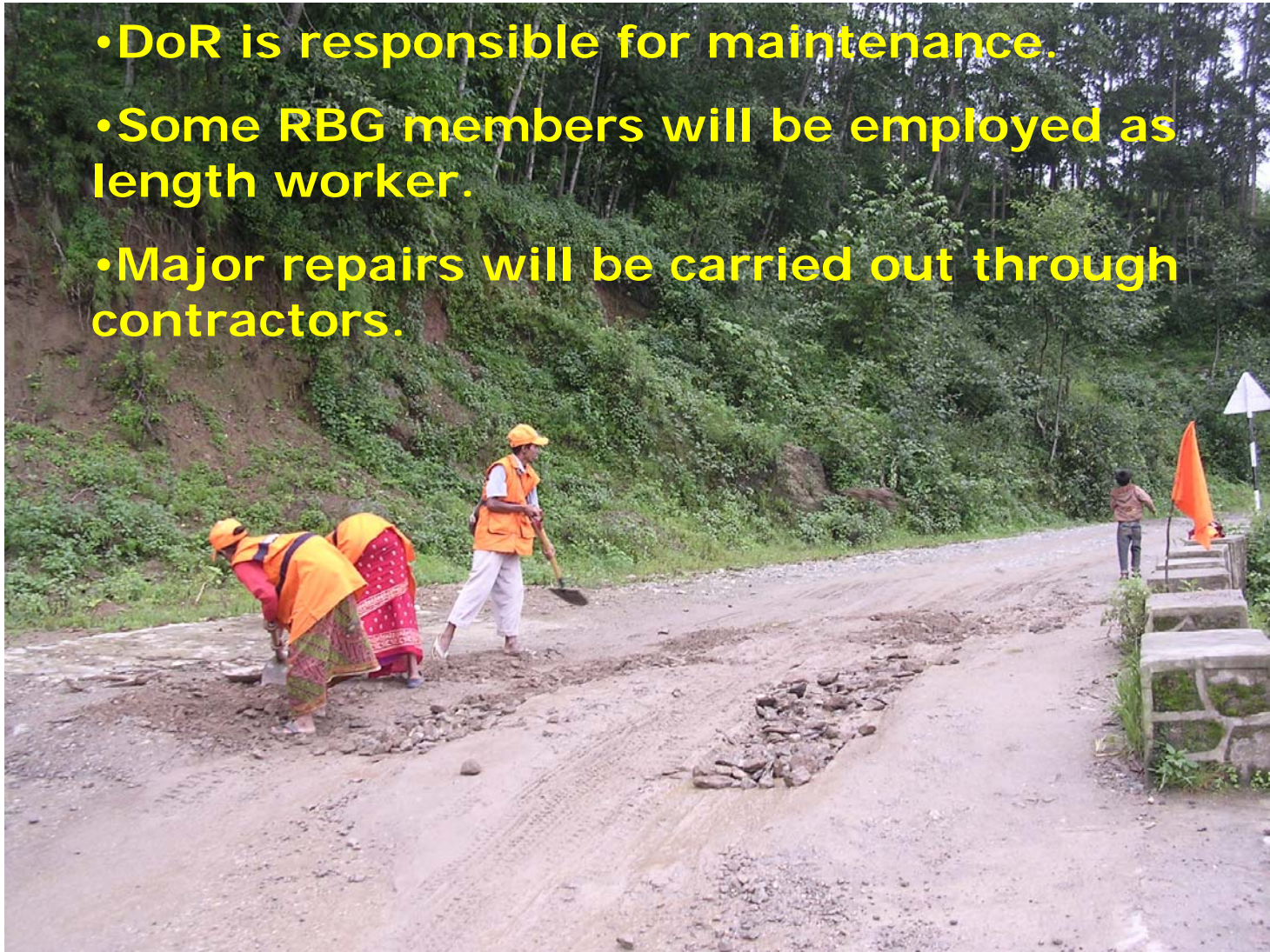
Loan disbursement on EDAs



■ Off-farm ■ Consumption ■ On-farm ■ Livestock

Maintenance

- DoR is responsible for maintenance.
- Some RBG members will be employed as length worker.
- Major repairs will be carried out through contractors.




Best value for money ?

Indicators	Conventional approach	RAP approach
Environmental friendly (No explosives, machinery)		Better
Employment generation (600k person days)		Better
Maintain social inclusion		Better
Feeling of ownership		Better
Improved livelihood opportunities		Better
Timely completion	Better	
Cost / benefit	Evaluate	

Follow-up actions

- **Impact evaluation in sustainable livelihoods for poor on HBFRP**
- **Monitoring of natural consolidation**
- **Lessons learnt disseminated**
- **Review policy for road maintenance**
- **Value for money assessment**



Are we serious in making rural roads sustainable and pro-poor?

Good Luck

