



Atlas Logistique is an operational unit of Humanity & Inclusion (HI) that specializes in logistics services and supply chain management for humanitarian organizations. As a part of the HI family, we believe in the inclusive and equitable distribution of humanitarian aid for all vulnerable populations, and work towards this every day, through innovative and strategic logistics solutions that help actors go further, faster.

DRC: Bridging the gap between population and healthcare

Bordering South Sudan and Uganda, the Ituri province of DRC is a tropical zone where access to healthcare remains challenging both for refugees fleeing the fighting in Sudan and the local population. Atlas Logistique used its expertise to create road access to this high-risk area to connect health centres and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid.

The lack of road access in the area meant that the local populations had limited access to health care and that hospitals were unable to refer patients to other specialist units for optimal care management. In this zone, where people often require medical intervention after sustaining war wounds, the rapidity of the emergency response is key to saving lives. At the request of two partner NGOs, Atlas Logistique decided to rehabilitate a strategic road that could only be used by two-wheeled vehicles, with a view to ensuring patients can be referred rapidly to another health structure.

Collaboration with the local community

To ensure the relevance of the work, we validated and co-constructed the project with the local community. All the work was carried out by workers from the surrounding villages, supervised by our teams, thus providing 150 people with a significant income.



First picture: Condition of the former makeshift ARILE bridge. View of the layers of dead wood and planks used to secure passage.



Second picture: Side view of the ARILE bridge after construction work.

Infrastructure built to last

For the 40-day duration of the work, three bridges were built to allow for year-round access for all types of vehicles. The bridges were designed by an engineer using local, reliable materials, with a special structure to ensure its long-term durability. We created over five kilometres of track, and dug side drains to channel runoff and ensure the infrastructure can withstand the rainy season.

A multi-sectorial impact

Since the road reopened, the health centres have been able to refer patients according to their specific needs, thus reducing mortality rates. We have also seen an economic upturn in the area thanks to delivery trucks that can now use the road to transport the tobacco harvest. Finally, the populations of three villages have regained road access to essential services and more opportunities to do business and trade.

For the entire civil engineering project in Nord-Kivu and Ituri, DRC:

Budget: 1,3 M €

Length: from July, 2018 to April, 2020