



African Transport Policy Program

In partnership with:



OVERVIEW

Africa faces three urgent transport challenges: the continent has the highest rate of road fatalities in the world; it has an unprecedented rate of urbanization; and it has the highest transport costs in the world. The Africa Transport Policy Program (SSATP) aims to facilitate policy development and related capacity-building in the transport sector of Africa. It supports sound policies that lead to efficient, safe and sustainable transport for the people in Africa.



Transport challenges in Africa

The road safety situation in Africa is hindering its competitiveness and development. Although the continent has the lowest road network density and only owns 2 percent of the world's vehicles, the rate of road fatalities in Africa is the highest in the world, with 24 per 100,000 inhabitants, against 18.5 in Asia and 10.3 in Europe. Over the next decade, unless drastic measures are taken, road crashes in Africa are expected to increase by 68 percent.

At the same time, Africa's rate of urbanization is unprecedented, averaging almost 5 percent over the past two decades. The number of new urban residents is expected to rise sharply by over 300 million between 2000 and 2030. By 2050, 60 percent of Africans will live in urban areas, against a current world average of 51 percent.

Meanwhile, Africa remains fragmented, mostly due to the lack of transport infrastructure and inefficient transport services. The situation is worst for landlocked countries, where transport prices contribute to 15 to 20 percent of import costs – three to four times more than in developed countries. Reducing transport costs could lead to a 25 percent increase in trade.

Background

SSATP is an international partnership of over 40 African

countries, Regional Economic Communities, continental institutions (African Union Commission), U.N. agencies (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa), public and private sector organizations, and international development agencies and organizations. SSATP is hosted by the World Bank's Transport and ICT Global Practice.

Since its inception in 1987, SSATP support has contributed to significantly improve the effectiveness of the transport sector, with positive follow-on effects for the wider economy. 28 countries have now established second-generation road funds, a mechanism for expanding revenue sources and increasing spending accountability, and 18 countries operate a road agency with greater autonomy from line ministries. This is a direct result of SSATP's initiative to promote commercialization of road sector management.

SSATP is currently wrapping up its Second Development Plan (DP2) and kicking off the Development Plan 3 (DP3) for the period FY15-FY18, which will focus on: integration, connectivity and cohesion; urban mobility and accessibility; and road safety. The objective of DP3 is that African countries develop sound strategies and policies for an efficient, safe, and sustainable transport in the three focus areas of the program.

The African Development Bank, the French Development Agency

(AFD), the European Commission, and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), are contributing financially to this third phase through a trust fund administered by the World Bank.

Focus

SSATP's focus is on policy development and related capacity building of Africa's transport sector. Program activities encompass knowledge creation, knowledge dissemination, advocacy, and knowledge application. By working with a wide range of stakeholders, the program contributes to identify transport-related issues that must be addressed, monitoring improvements and deficiencies, building the capacity of transport institutions, and facilitating the allocation of resources to specific projects.

ADVOCATING FOR ROAD SAFETY

In partnership with the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), SSATP was one of the key contributors to the strategy that underpins the Decade of Action for Road Safety, which was adopted by the African heads of state in 2012. In support to the Decade, SSATP launched its road safety program in 2012.

Partnerships

Working through partnerships is fundamental to SSATP. Not only for the purpose of extending the geographical reach of the program and increasing its impact, but also for ensuring the sustainability of SSATP's achievements beyond the life span of the program itself. Beyond the World Bank, which has been SSATP's traditional partner, SSATP is working with a broad range of partners, including the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Regional Economic Communities in Africa, other development partners, African associations such as the African Road Maintenance Funds Association and road safety agencies.

Mainstreaming sustainable transport and climate change preparedness into transport policies

In partnership with UNEP, UN-Habitat, the World Bank and the Government of Kenya, SSATP organized in October 2014 the first conference of the Sustainable Transport Forum for Africa. The Forum, which was officially opened by the UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon and His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, the President of Kenya, aims to (i) increase understanding of the benefits of building sustainable transport networks across Africa; (ii) build a support system for regional cooperation on achieving sustainable transport; (iii) stimulate policy dialogue on sustainable transport in a systematic way; (iv) enable local, national and regional stakeholders to improve knowledge and expand existing best practices; and (v) facilitate access to financing of sustainable transport.

Improving Transport Sector Governance

SSATP has developed a set of indicators as a tool to identify issues in the transport sector and evaluate the impact of measures to address them. SSATP has worked with countries

towards strengthening their institutions responsible for transport data management and setting up systems in Burkina Faso, Uganda, Swaziland and Zambia.

Promoting Regional Integration

SSATP is building the capacity of the Regional Economic Communities, corridor management authorities and national institutions, to monitor corridor performance, understand the causes of poor performance and make evidence-based policy decisions. Efficient transport corridors are critical for improving the competitiveness of countries and regions and increasing trade.

Achievements

SSATP has been involved in 23 African countries to strengthen their efforts in the transport sector. Results include:

Kenya: A Charter for axle load control self-compliance

Was developed and signed by the enforcement agencies and logistics operators in Kenya which includes a commitment by all parties. The Charter is expected to be signed soon in other countries member of the East African Community.

Tanzania: As a result of an SSATP supported initiative on road safety, a new legislation on licensing and regulation of heavy good vehicles was ratified and became effective. It will impact more than 100,000 truck drivers who be mandatorily trained. The legislation also covers measures such as banning the import of trucks older than 10 years, stepping up vehicle inspection and establishing an independent vehicle inspection unit.

Uganda: The government approved a new policy for rural transport, developed with the support of SSATP. This policy and the subsequent SSATP review of the Government's implementation of the national gender policy in the road sector will contribute Uganda's National Transport Policy, currently under preparation.

Mozambique: SSATP facilitated a consultation process with the private sector to further improve the effectiveness of the Maputo Corridor. Private sector input was integrated in to the draft law that regulates the transit regime and was later adopted by the government.

Burkina Faso: SSATP supported the development of the country's new strategy for the transport sector by funding workshops with key stakeholders to confirm the strategy's main priorities and promote ownership for effective implementation.

Tool: SSATP has developed a road safety management framework and an urban mobility and accessibility policy based on the Enable/Avoid/Shift/Improve (EASI) concept, that provide the guidance to set the proper policy and institutional environment for investments in these two areas.

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