

General Trend on Transit Corridors

With the exception of Senegal, and to a lesser degree, Mali, the road harassment indicators saw a measured decline during the third quarter of 2011 in all of the countries covered by the USAID Trade Hub-UEMOA road governance initiative. This encouraging improvement is due in part to the decrease in harassment seen in Cote d'Ivoire. These results suggest that the increasing number of stakeholders familiar with and committed to a West Africa without borders – Borderless – is leading to a change in mentality.

Compared to the previous quarter (the 15th road governance report), bribery decreased by 6% while declines in the number of checkpoints and the delays drivers experienced dropped by 27% and 22%, respectively. Bribes remain excessive : a truck that is roadworthy and completely legal is compelled to pay 42,000 FCFA (about USD 93) on average per trip.

Progress in Togo

During a caravan organized by the road governance initiative in March 2011, customs officials in Togo announced the closure of checkpoints in Kante, North Dapaong and South Cinkanse. The current report shows that this pledge was fulfilled. Several other customs checkpoints do not inspect as many trucks, either. The road governance initiative Focal Point in Togo reports that road harassment by gendarmes and police officers has radically declined also. The 17th report may confirm these observations.

Cote d'Ivoire in Transition

This quarter's results are mixed: a decline in the number of checkpoints and the length of delays for trucks going from Bamako to Abidjan are offset by an increase in bribes per checkpoint. It is difficult to draw conclusions this quarter because no import-carrying trips could be monitored and no data was collected on the Abidjan-Ouagadougou corridor. However, the government of Cote d'Ivoire has implemented measures to reduce harassment. Specifically, it has published a list of the 33 authorized checkpoints in the country, of which only 8 are on the corridors monitored by the road governance initiative.

A Set-Back in Senegal

Since joining the initiative in 2009, the indicators in Senegal had improved in consecutive reports. But this quarter all of Senegal's indicators worsened. This is more surprising given that Senegal is the only country where indicators worsened. Specifically, road harassment increased at the customs checkpoint at Kidira and police checkpoints at Kafrine, Tambacounda, Kaolack and Fatick ; and above all at Gendarmerie checkpoints at Missira, Diamniado, Botou, Goudiry, Kirene and Maka Kahone.

Trend in bribery by country (per 100 km)

