Infrastructure

Repairs to the Kampala-Malaba Railway Line

Context

The Kampala-Malaba railway line is the main railway line in Uganda connecting the country to Kenya, and its sea port of Mombasa. It is therefore an important corridor for transporting goods between the two countries. The original line was built in 1927, with little maintenance since then. Over time the railway line has deteriorated to the extent that freight traffic has fallen from 1.3 million tonnes to 600,000 tonnes per year, as businesses choose to transport their goods by road rather than rail.

Objective: To increase the volume of Uganda's import and export traffic carried by rail

Repairing this section of railway would:

- Ensure that this vital transport corridor remains open until such time when the railway line can be fully rehabilitated
- Provide a safe, reliable service on the Uganda section of the railway line to Mombasa
- Decrease the cost of transporting by rail, and make this mode of transport a viable option to road transport

Impact: Easier access, better business

The main achievements of this project include:

- rehabilitation and improvement of sections of the railway line as well as the rehabilitation of the Nile railway bridge
- a main railway line that was on the verge of closure has remained open and attracted private investment, which will ensure its continued existence
- increased safety, as the number of derailments have decreased
- removal of many speed restrictions, as the condition of the railway has been improved
- improved line capacity and therefore an increase in the volume of freight transported, which is beneficial to business

For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm