Transport

Rehabilitation of the road network in Sierra Leone

Masiaka-Bo highway

"The rehabilitation of the road network is a key objective of the EU cooperation for development. The completion of the Masiaka-Bo highway is a major success in this process. The substantial reduction in travel time and costs between Bo and Freetown will promote economic growth and directly improve the living standards of many Sierra Leoneans."

Munda Rogers - Director General, Sierra Leone Roads Authority

Context

Roads are a driving factor for economic development and regional integration. Sierra Leone's economy is highly dependent on the transport of people and commodities by road but the condition of the national network is poor and its extent limited. Asphalted roads are less than 10% of the total. To rehabilitate the core road network and to enhance national and regional integration is, therefore, the main sector priority. Contributing to national integration by facilitating communications between the North and South of the country, the Masiaka-Bo is a key link within Sierra Leone. As a component of the Conakry-Freetown-Monrovia road, it also contributes to the interconnection of West Africa.

Objectives

- To improve the living standards and to reduce poverty for the people living in the region giving access to basic social services.
- To facilitate trade and economic integration of the West African region and in particular between the North and South of Sierra Leone.
- To reduce the cost of transport, travel time and vehicle operating costs between Freetown and Bo.

Impact

- Transport cost and travelling time have been reduced by 30%.
- Trade volumes have doubled between Freetown and Bo and are expected to further increase in the coming years.
- Access to markets and to basic social services has increased for the...
Better access to health and education services

"Thanks to the reconstruction of this road, people living in the Bo District can have an easier access to health centers and education facilities. Every morning and afternoon this road is used by hundreds of students going to school. We are very happy to have a paved road that can be regularly used during the dry and rainy season. Travelling time was significantly reduced and we hope that in the next future the Government of Sierra Leone will buy additional buses for public transport services. There are already some connections between Freetown and Bo but these should be further increased in number and frequency. People living in the provinces can find more jobs in their District without being obliged to migrate to the capital Freetown. We are willing to develop our own business closer to our home villages. Women can sell vegetables to local markets getting better prices and imported items have become more accessible."

A group of young students using the Masiaka-Bo