



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Lacinia Pakoun, Communications
Coordinator
USAID West Africa Trade Hub
Cel: +226
Email: lpakoun@watradehub.com
www.borderlesswa.com

More effort needed to improve road governance in Mali

Bamako, 2 March 2011 – The Improved Road Transport Governance (IRTG) Initiative has released its 14th report on road harassment on primary trade corridors in West Africa, reporting the level of checkpoints, bribes and delays observed from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2010.

In Mali, the report shows:

- Drivers experience 2.5 stops per 100 km at checkpoints operated by customs, police and gendarmes, which is the worst level of the six countries monitored under the joint USAID Trade Hub-UEMOA initiative (the others are Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal and Togo).

- Delays average 29 minutes per 100 km in Mali, the worst among the countries monitored.

- The level of bribes paid in Mali is second only to Cote d'Ivoire. Between Bamako and Zégoua, drivers pay an average of 19,500 FCFA per 100 km per trip; between Bamako and Diboli, they pay 21,000 FCFA per 100 km and between Bamako and Sona, they pay 32,000 FCFA per 100 km. These amounts are paid by drivers whose vehicles have been inspected and deemed roadworthy and whose documentation is also in order – they should not be paying any penalties at all, in effect.



The checkpoint at Ouelessebougou North is an obstacle to trade in West Africa. Source : IRTG

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The free circulation of goods and people is far from being a reality. Numerous checkpoints along interstate corridors are obstacles to transport and trade – and harm West Africa's ability to compete in international markets.

Financed by USAID West Africa and jointly implemented by UEMOA and the USAID West Africa Trade Hub, the IRTG initiative began monitoring road harassment in 2005.

The complete 14th report is available at www.watradehub.com/reports and at www.borderlesswa.com.