

**Linkages between transport modes do not function effectively in Africa, while logistics services remain in their infancy. This contributes to significant delays and costs in the movement of international freight. For landlocked countries this is a multinational problem being confronted regionally along transit corridors.**

### **Air transport**

- Africa has seen strong growth in air traffic in recent years.
- A relatively efficient hub and spoke system has evolved in eastern and southern Africa, but not so in West and Central Africa where air connectivity is cumbersome and even declining.
- A poor safety record is the largest challenge facing the air transport industry in Africa today. The problem is no longer one of ageing aircraft but rather one of lax supervision of airlines.
- While Africa has little need of new runways and terminals, air traffic control and surveillance facilities do require substantial improvement.

### **Ports**

- Over the last decade, the amount of cargo through Africa's port system has tripled but containerization is still low and suffers from trade imbalance and weak inland transport linkages.
- Only a handful of African ports are large enough to receive calls from major shipping lines, hence the importance of focusing on regional hubs with efficient transshipment along the coast.
- Many ports fall behind international best practice, costs are high, and delays can be considerable.
- Institutional reform paving the way for greater involvement for major international terminal operators is the most promising way to improve efficiency.

### **Railways**

- The economic significance of African railroads has declined markedly during the last 30 years following economic liberalization and improvements in road infrastructure.
- Restoring Africa's ageing rail networks to good operating condition would require a one-time rehabilitation effort of US\$3 billion.
- Rail concessions adopted in many countries have helped to improve operational efficiency and reverse traffic decline, but have not been able to mobilize the anticipated volume of investment.
- Intense competition between roads and rail freight means that most lines simply do not carry enough traffic to generate the revenues needed to finance track upgrades.

### **Roads**

- Many African countries have made progress in developing sound institutions for funding and building road infrastructure; nevertheless maintenance often remains significantly under-funded.
- Without a competitive trucking industry and smooth trade facilitation, road freight services will continue to be costly and inefficient, however good the quality of the roads.
- One of Africa's major remaining transport challenges is to improve road accessibility in rural areas, which is critical to raising agricultural productivity.
- Africa's rapidly growing cities also face major mobility problems due to the low density of paved roads and the inadequate nature of public transportation systems.