

Empowering Togo's logistics sector for enhanced competitiveness and trade facilitation

Togo, February 2019 to June 2022

Key partners	<p>Government of Togo</p> <p>The World Bank</p>
Summary	<p>Formalisation and professionalisation are central to a modern, efficient and competitive transport and logistics sector.</p> <p>In Togo, IRU supported the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport and the local road transport community to realise this ambition and contribute to sustainable and inclusive development.</p>
Context	<p>Togo benefited from sustained economic growth in the 2010s, contributing to national infrastructure development. Initiatives to foster regional integration were launched to build on this momentum and advance trade, contribute to job creation and accelerate economic growth.</p> <p>In turn, the World Bank initiated a new framework to guide efforts and investments. This project, “Empowering Togo's logistics sector for enhanced competitiveness and trade facilitation”, was the frameworks’ first step.</p> <p>IRU was chosen to spearhead the project's execution, drawing upon its expertise and experience facilitating road transport. This aligns with a broader initiative to enhance the competitiveness of the Togolese logistics sector and turn Togo into a regional logistics hub.</p>
Challenge	<p>The first challenge was to comprehensively diagnose the state of the national industry and define a bold, yet actionable, vision.</p> <p>Efforts were then focused on designing a new consensual land transport legal framework to integrate this shared vision and equip the sector with the necessary tools to develop and leverage its potential.</p> <p>In a country with a vast and young talent pool, the road transport sector should be enabled to attract qualified and motivated drivers. The third and key priority of IRU was to assist Togo in establishing a full professional training framework and the required capacity to train and certify all road transport professionals and help make the profession more attractive.</p>

Solution

All the stakeholders shared a common objective of creating a sustainable institutional capacity in the long term as well as to establish a regulatory framework for the initial and recurrent training of professional drivers, operators and managers of transport companies, based on international standards, while adhering to the specific needs of Togo and West Africa.

In turn, IRU introduced an action-oriented, step-by-step roadmap based on five pillars:

1. **Diagnosis:** Visions and identified solutions were gathered from stakeholders to guide the modernisation, formalisation and professionalisation of the sector.
2. **Legal and regulatory framework:** A new legal, regulatory and institutional transport framework was created to foster development.
3. **Capacity building:** Private logistics stakeholders were formalised and enabled through high-quality training and certification. The formation and launch of a professional road transport organisation helped private actors to join forces and coordinate their actions.
4. **Training:** Specific actions were undertaken to train and build the capacity of both public and private road transport actors.
5. **Communication:** Various communication initiatives, including workshops, publications, movies and events, were organised to interact with key stakeholders, raise awareness and disseminate the project's results.

Results

IRU and all the key stakeholders worked collaboratively over a three-year timeframe to lead and deliver:

- The preparation and animation of [capacity-building workshops](#) for institutional actors, road transport [facilitation training](#), [project management](#), [road safety protocols](#), and the [transport of dangerous goods](#).
 - The definition of the [legal framework](#) and related [implementing texts](#).
 - The preparation of [transport contracts](#).
 - The establishment of the national federation representing the Togolese road transport sector: the [Faitière Patronale Togolaise des Transporteurs Routiers \(FP2TR\)](#). FP2TR is now the main industry representative organisation working with national and foreign authorities.
 - The development and publication of more than ten [practical guides](#) to formalise the sector.
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- The development and delivery of **training programmes** (including training materials, brochures and question banks) through an online interactive platform.
- The **training and certification** of more than 20 trainers in professional driving training as well as operator and auxiliary trade programmes.
- The operationalisation of a **training centre**.
- The organisation of **information workshops** with key stakeholders and a **national conference** with government representatives and the industry to share the outcomes of the project and lay the foundation for future steps.

Key performance indicators

- Capacity-building workshops with Togolese experts and professionals
- The development of a legal framework and implementing texts
- The preparation of transport contracts
- The professionalisation of the road transport association
- The creation of practical guides and training programmes and materials
- The certification of trainers
- The operationalisation of a training centre
- Participation in information workshops and conferences
- Engagement in promotional events and press conferences

Impact

At the conclusion of the project, fundamental reforms were successfully launched to ensure that the transport industry contributes to the development of the Togolese economy – with a focus on efficiency and sustainability – and facilitates regional integration.

IRU ensured that private and institutional stakeholders were encouraged, trained and enabled to take ownership of the project's outcomes. With this approach, the project has generated strong impact by:

- Enhancing the formalisation and professionalisation of the transport industry
- Strengthening the legal and regulatory frameworks for sustainable growth
- Empowering private sector actors with improved skills and capacity
- Increasing awareness and understanding of best practices through training and publications
- Elevating Togo's position as a potential regional logistics hub



Documents

[News update](#) (20 Nov 2020)

[News update](#) (24 Feb 2021)

[News update](#) (10 May 2021)

[News update](#) (13 July 2021)

[News update](#) (22 March 2022)

[News update](#) (23 February 2023)

Follow-up

In December 2022, the Togolese Parliament adopted a new transport law based on the work of IRU and the World Bank, in line with the progressive modernisation of the national transport sector.

This ambition is materialising, notably with the launch of [MTracking](#) in March 2023, a tool enabling the tracking of goods transiting Togo by radio identification.

More broadly, IRU supported the competitiveness of logistics services in trade to transform Togo into a regional logistics hub.

To sustain the project's impact, ongoing efforts monitor its formalisation and professionalisation initiatives. Continued collaboration with stakeholders, regular evaluations and strategy adjustments are ensuring the lasting success of the logistics sector transformation.

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