



European Union contribution to improving urban infrastructure

As the UN's Habitat meets this week for its biannual Governing Council, the European Union announces its contribution to improving Kenya's urban infrastructure. In two keystone projects, the European Union is helping ease Nairobi's congested transport system and helping to improve the lives of those in a coastal slum.

As part of support to the Kenyan government's master plan for urban transport in the capital the European Union is spending 3.4 billion KShs (€31 million), in collaboration with relevant Ministries and agencies, to improve key missing road and path links. Involving almost twenty kilometres of new roads and more than ten kilometres of footpaths, the programme is specifically targeted at easing congestion hotspots and providing safe walking and cycling routes in the city.

Nine key links between major roads that would benefit from construction or widening have been identified and will be built with European Union funding, including linking Limuru Road to Waiyaki Way and Thika Road, and a link between Enterprise Road and Mombasa Road.

At the coast near Kilifi, the European Union is working to improve the lives of those living in informal housing in Mtwapa. This is part of 1.1 billion KShs (€10 million) of European Union funding to UN HABITAT's global programme which leads to improvements in key infrastructure such as water supply, sanitation and roads in slum areas, led by community participation.

Ambassador Lodewijk Briet, the European Union's Ambassador to Kenya, said,

“The European Union is committed to supporting the new Kenyan government as it seeks to improve the lives of Kenyans around the country.

“As Kenyans increasingly move into cities and towns so transport and housing infrastructure faces challenges. The European Union is working closely with the Kenyan government to identify and implement areas for key development in roads, water and energy projects.”

This recent contribution to Nairobi's roads is the latest in over 2,000 kilometres of road that the European Union has maintained, upgraded or newly built since 1983. The current round of support to Kenya's roads has also included the upgrading of strategic road links that Kenya has with its neighbours and rural roads, cutting travel time and cost, improving the transportation of goods between local communities and countries in the region.

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