

11th TransNet Event

**“Mobility & Health: Results of the International Networked Research Programme”
and
“OECD: Agreed Principles for Pro-Poor Infrastructure”**

Friday, 07.12.07, 09.00 - 12.45h, Room 3032

SDC Head Office, Freiburgrasse 130, Bern – Ausserholligen, Switzerland

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Background:

The significant contribution of transport and mobility to the development and the livelihoods of poor people is widely recognised. However, the development sector is yet to fully acknowledge and understand the role of transport in improving poor people's health. In the context of the need to step up development activity to meet the Millennium Development Goals, a better understanding of the relationship between mobility and health becomes a priority.

Transport can have both a positive and negative impact on poor people's health. Improving transport infrastructure and services has the potential to increase poor people's access to health services, enable better servicing of health outposts, increase the flow of health information and can facilitate the movement of health extension workers. Improved access can also help improve the accessibility of safe water supplies, which has positive consequences for the health of communities. These factors, in turn, contribute to reducing morbidity and mortality, to increasing awareness about reproductive issues, and to improving livelihoods and reducing poverty. For example the construction of feeder roads providing motorized transport connecting 45 villages in the Darfur region of Sudan are reported to have influenced measurable impacts on community health, such as a rise in immunization of children. The study found that road provision enabled the equipping and supply of health outlets, and that access to services and technologies was further improved by a concurrent revolving drug fund.

The experience with the spread of HIV/AIDS has dramatically shown that improving access and mobility can also have strong negative impacts. Developing transport corridors for long-distance goods transport often results in changing patterns of sexual activity, an increase in the number of sexual partners and the diffusion of HIV. Many large-scale transport sector programmes and initiatives that work on combating the spread of HIV/AIDS are now working to address this problem through awareness training of transport workers and sex workers along these corridors.

As a global network of members interested in the social aspects of rural transport issues, the IFRTD acknowledges that there is a need to demonstrate and document the strong linkages between Mobility and Health. To this end, a workshop was held in Bern in Nov. 2004, organised by TransNet in collaboration with IFRTD, and supported by the Mobility and Health desks of SDC, along with inputs from the Swiss Centre for International Health and, transport and health specialists – mainly from the south. The workshop discussed some less-known yet important issues relating to mobility and health ([click here for more information and the full workshop report](#)). This workshop was the point of departure of an important 2-year networked research programme launched by IFRTD with financial support from SDC and Sida. The results of the programme will be presented, amongst others, at this TransNet event.

Objectives and themes of the event:

The main objective of the event is to share with the workshop participants the findings and recommendations of the networked research on mobility and health. Particular emphasis will be given on the implications and strategic considerations for both the transport and health sectors. Participants will be asked to provide their individual experiences and views.

In addition to the main theme of the event, SDC will also inform about the potentials and the role of transport infrastructure in pro poor growth promotion, i.e. DAC – OECD recommendations on poverty and infrastructure. A short information will also be provided on the recently conducted SDC workshop in Chad on “Mobility and rural roads in West Africa”. Beyond the various inputs and discussions, the event will allow sufficient time for:

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- Mutual information on important past, ongoing or forthcoming activities and initiatives in the sector;
- Bilateral exchanges and informal networking among the participants.

Agenda:

Hour	Item	Timing	Responsible
09.00	Welcome and introductions	5 min.	Thomas Zeller (SDC)
09.05	Introduction and agenda	5 min.	Roger Schmid (Skat)
09.10	Mobility and Health: Results of the International Networked Research - Part I <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> General introduction: background, origin and methodology<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation of the research results from three countries: Mexico, Burkina Faso and Pakistan<input type="checkbox"/> Initiating a dialogue between health and transport	70 min.	Marinke van Riet (IFRTD) Alfonso Balbuena / Christel Jost / Almas Saleem Sida (Malin Ahrne) – SDC (Thomas Zeller)
10.20	Coffee/tea break and bilateral talks	30 min.	
10.50	Mobility and Health: Results of the International Networked Research - Part II <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> How can health and transport work together?: Some practical examples<input type="checkbox"/> Plenary discussion	40 min.	Kate Molesworth (SCIH)
11.30	Potentials and the Role of Transport Infrastructure in Pro Poor Growth Promotion Presentation and discussion	45 min.	Reto Wieser (SDC)
12.15	Mobility and Rural Roads in West Africa Information on the background and outcomes of a SDC workshop held in N'Djamena in September 2007	15 min.	Roger Schmid (Skat) / Salam Yameogo (Helvetas)
12.30	Varia Brief information on important past, ongoing or forthcoming activities and initiatives / events	15 min.	Participants
12.45	Informal Finger lunch and bilateral exchanges	Open	

Setting:

The TransNet (www.trans-web.ch/transnet/events.htm) was conceived in 1999 as a Swiss-based informal community of practice (CoP) with the aim to “*promote the dialogue and to co-ordinate and exchange information, know-how and experiences as a basis for mutual learning with other public and private, national and international actors in the field of transport in developing countries*”. Ten TransNet events have been held since, providing a high-standing forum for discussing important sector issues, such as technical, institutional, public-private partnership, gender, poverty & transport, good governance, community involvement, mobility & health and livelihood aspects. TransNet brings together all sector organisations and individuals in Switzerland with invited practitioners from abroad, and constitutes platform for exchange and sector and trans-sectoral coordination and cooperation as well as a pool of expertise and a think tank in mobility for SDC.

Expected Participants:

- TransNet members
- SDC head office staff from the thematic (health, poverty, access, etc.) and geographical sections
- IFRTD members
- Sector practitioners from the field (SDC, Helvetas and other organisations)
- Invited health and transport sector professionals and wider development practitioners

St. Gallen, 28.11.2007/JC-RS