

RURAL TRANSPORT IS CRUCIAL TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

	<p>GOAL 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER</p> <p>Seventy-five per cent of the world's poorest people (around 1.05 billion) live in rural areas. Agricultural production is often severely restrained by lack of access to markets, resulting in livelihood insecurity and poverty.</p> <p>Appropriate transport interventions can help producers to access markets and support increased production, livelihood security and economic growth.</p>
	<p>GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION</p> <p>Access and mobility constraints frequently prevent children in rural areas, especially girls, from attending school. Recognition of the role that distance, travel hazards (whether perceived or actual), transport availability and other mobility factors play in barring access to school is urgently required if this goal is to be achieved.</p>
	<p>GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN</p> <p>Transport tasks contribute significantly to the 'time poverty' of rural women and girls in developing countries.</p> <p>Gender-sensitive transport interventions can reduce women's time poverty, and facilitate their empowerment through increased engagement in income-generating activities and access to education, health services and political processes.</p>
	<p>GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY</p> <p>Poor rural transport provision acts as a barrier to children receiving healthcare, and is a significant causal factor in the high levels of child mortality that prevail.</p>
	<p>GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH</p> <p>Distance to healthcare services and limited means of transport contribute to high levels of maternal mortality by reducing the likelihood of women seeking necessary healthcare and access to key factors for good maternal health such as skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric, antenatal and postnatal care.</p>
	<p>GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES</p> <p>Transport is a key factor in sustained healthcare treatment. Immunisation and disease control programmes are compromised by disruption to the safe and timely delivery of vaccines, while poor access deters repeat patient attendance.</p>
	<p>GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY</p> <p>As a result of climate change, it is expected that basic rural access will become worse, travelling to and from road networks will become more difficult and existing infrastructure may be seriously damaged.</p> <p>Sustainable and more localised transport services, the promotion of non-motorised vehicles and the development of traditional waterways can all contribute to help poor communities adapt and improve their resilience</p>
	<p>GOAL 8: DEVELOP A PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Access, mobility and freedom of movement empowers people and allows them to benefit from trade, ICTs/other new technologies and be active part of civil society networks.</p>