

# Mobility & Health

An International Networked Research Programme

## BRIDGING THE GAP

EXPLORING THE LINKS BETWEEN MOBILITY AND HEALTH FOR POOR COMMUNITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORKED RESEARCH PROGRAMME IN 18 COUNTRIES ACROSS AFRICA, ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA

### Transport and the Three Delays Model of Maternal Mortality \*

#### DELAY 1 DECISION TO SEEK CARE

Unsafe journeys and poorly staffed and resourced health posts deter travel. Long, slow journeys to healthcare facilities enforce breaks in subsistence activities and loss of wages. Women have low decision-making power within the family. Transport costs are prohibitive particularly for emergency transportation.

#### DELAY 2 IDENTIFYING AND REACHING HEALTHCARE FACILITY

Means of transport are often overcrowded, costly, infrequent, and irregular. Poor handling and positioning of patients can lead to critical secondary injuries. Public Transport Services can be inaccessible for persons with injuries and disabilities. Remote communities face long journeys on foot to reach motorised transport services. Lack of transport infrastructure affects the diffusion of outreach health services. Transport operators can be unwilling to transport women for affordable fares.

#### DELAY 3 RECEIPT OF ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE TREATMENT

Poor access limits continuity of care and monitoring of maternal and child health. Immunisation and disease control programmes are compromised by disruption to the safe and timely delivery of drugs. Attracting and retaining trained medical staff is difficult at remote health posts. Transport difficulties prohibit repeat attendance by patients.

\* (Thaddeus and Maine 1994)

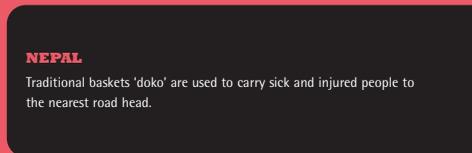
### Picturing the relationship between mobility and health



#### EL POBLADO, GUATEMALA

Walking uphill to meet the chair that will carry her 7kms to the nearest health centre.

Photo credit: M. Calzadilla & B. Orlina



#### NEPAL

Traditional baskets 'doko' are used to carry sick and injured people to the nearest road head.



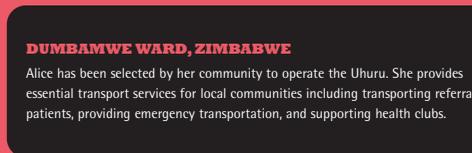
Photo credit: A. Sambhanga



#### FLORES, INDONESIA

A crowded truck is the only option for pregnant women, sick and injured people who have walked from the early hours to reach the nearest road.

Photo credit: J. Permal



#### DUMBAMWE WARD, ZIMBABWE

Alice has been selected by her community to operate the Uhuru. She provides essential transport services for local communities including transporting referral patients, providing emergency transportation, and supporting health clubs.



Photo credit: Riders for Health



#### RAMECHHAP, NEPAL

A new road has diverted public transport services away from the district hospital demonstrating the need for synergy between health services and transport planning.

Photo credit: B. Wehman & B. Shrestha



#### INDIA

Assistive devices often don't fit into public transport services such as buses and auto rickshaws.



#### RWANDA

The Ingobyi, a hand carried bamboo stretcher, is one of the main means of transportation for patients in rural Rwanda.

Photo credit: A. Boreggren

FINDING SOLUTIONS: [www.mobilityandhealth.org](http://www.mobilityandhealth.org)