

WOMEN MAJOR GROUP STATEMENT- TRANSPORT

Inadequate infrastructure in transportation results in high maternal mortality rates, infant mortality rates, workload and drudgery among poor women and high drop-up rates among girls from schools. A substantial amount of agriculture and allied activities are done by women and girls, and women farmers are facing tremendous problems in selling their products at proper prices due to lack of transport. Women are more likely to make local trips than men because of their priorities and responsibilities. Moreover, the safety of women and girls on lonely and dark roads is an issue of concern. Thus, focusing on women in the areas of eco-friendly and women-friendly infrastructure and transport would be beneficial, not only for their increased mobility and safety, but also for reducing the causes of the current overloading of the road network.

Efforts to address both sustainable transport issues and gender equality need to go hand in hand. Transport planning and development need to take into account the mobility issues and needs of women. The current models of travel do not focus on female-specific solutions which hinder the possibility for women to travel, and cause difficulties associated with their everyday responsibilities. The needs of female travellers, particularly in SE Asia and Africa, are overlooked by traditional models of travel demand.

Addressing the aforementioned issues and developing a more gender-oriented transportation network is of the utmost importance, which means the need for gender mainstreaming in the transport sector including gender analysis, budgeting and auditing. The improvement in transportation infrastructure will also help to achieve MGDs Goals number 2 to 5.

We would like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of involving women in decision making at all levels in the transport sector, especially in strategic and leadership positions.