Rural access and poverty alleviation

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Access is an issue for the rural poor

One billion people (or 31% of the rural population) don’t have access to an all-weather road.
Rural Access Measurement to inform development policy

Rural Access Index - Regional

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Improved Rural Access

Better transport, improved access and saving in travel cost and time

Growth in tertiary activities banking, schools, medical facilities, public services, service sector employment

Exploitation of resource potential leading to higher incomes

Development of small business at villages and road junctions

Emergence of demand for new activities and services
Evidence from National Studies

India Infrastructure Reports

Status of Household Income (in Rs.)

Connected Habitations

- 2007: 4466
- 2009: 5176
- 2010: 7006

Unconnected Habitations

- 2007: 4428
- 2009: 5014
- 2010: 5221

Study 2007-2011, 10 States, 33 Districts, 750 Habitation, 11,490 Households Publication 2012, LEA Associates SA, New Delhi, Ministry of Rural Development
Transport improves access to maternal and pediatric health care

Source: Pakistan Integrated Household Survey (PHIS) 2001-2002
Maternal Deaths and Infant Mortality

ADB Study- 2005-06 to 2007-08, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, Connected road- length of 550 km and serves 82 habitations.
% Females Enrolled in Schools

Study 2007-2010, 17 States, 50 Districts, 748 Habitation (3 years prior & after): Publication 2011, CMI Social Research Centre, New Delhi, Ministry of Rural Development
Transport supports delivery of other essential rural utility services

Source: Escobal and Torero 2004
Rural accessibility and post-conflict reconstruction and nation building

“Most of the insecurity happens because there are no roads and law enforcement officers cannot access the affected areas. For there to be investment there must be security and for there to be security there must be roads”

James Ladu, a development worker in Juba, South Sudan, the world’s newest country
Rural and Urban Growth are interlinked

- The worst rural poverty occurs in countries that have weak, remote urban economies. In this case there is insufficient incentive to invest in agriculture, processing, and rural transport and marketing.

- One of the best ways to promote rural development is to ensure that there is good accessibility to large, dynamic, competitive urban markets.

- An adequate public transportation system makes cities more inclusive and contributes to developing both urban areas and the wider rural economy.

- Only 15% of people are more than 1 hr away from a city in developed countries; it is 65% in developing countries.