AFCAP: An introduction to the African Community Access Programme

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• Current programme established 2008 - finishes June 2014
  A new 6-year AFCAP/ASCAP to follow

• DFID-funded, currently managed by Crown Agents

• Focus on promoting safe and sustainable access to services for rural communities in Africa

• Two foci: Engineering + Transport Services

• Supports research and knowledge sharing

• Ongoing/recent work in Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia, South Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan
Transport services: an expanding component of AFCAP work

- Poor provision and maintenance of road infrastructure is a major issue
- BUT also growing recognition that ‘Roads are not enough’
  - Poor transport service availability, unreliability, high fares etc.
  - Very poor safety record
  - Limited ownership of motorised vehicles; limited access to IMTs
  - Particular difficulties for disadvantaged groups – old, young, infirm, women
  - Particular difficulties of meeting health emergency transport needs
Wide range of AFCAP TS research and knowledge sharing, e.g.

- Road safety and motor-cycle taxis
- Explicating First Mile costs of smallholder farmers
- Improving knowledge of rural transport operator associations
- Potential impacts of climate change on transport
- Developing Transport Service Indicators
- Training courses to expand expertise in transport services
AFCAP: Meeting the transport needs of vulnerable people

• Strong focus on people with limited/reduced mobility
  – Women [especially re maternal health]
  – Older people
  – People with disability/infirmity
  – Children
  – Off-road, remote populations
Emergency transport issues central in 3 AFCAP Transport Services projects

• Testing equipment potential: Motorcycle Ambulance Trailers for emergency transport, Zambia [DevTech]

• Emergency transport for improved maternal health: Ghana + Nigeria [Transaid]

• Pan-African perspectives: this workshop!
Emergency health transport issues also relevant to other AFCAP TS research

- Older people’s mobility and access to health services [Tanzania]
- Transport in post-conflict contexts [DRC]
- Road safety for motor-cycle taxis [Tanzania]
AFCAP Transport Services training courses

- Shortage of professionals with TS knowledge
- 2 recent short courses
  - University of Cape Coast, Ghana [for West Africa]
  - University of Malawi [for southern Africa]
- Aimed at early career staff
- Explores key transport constraints
- Emphasis on participatory methodologies
- Considers how transport planners can help meet the needs of vulnerable groups
- Practical work; field exercises
Conclusion: Transport Services of growing importance in AFCAP

- Emphasis on gender equity + social inclusion
- Pioneering research in new areas e.g.:
  - Innovative methodologies
  - Transport and mobile phone connectivities
  - Road safety, especially motorcycle taxi services
  - Conflict; climate change
- Raising consciousness of TS amongst engineers
- Building a network of transport services specialists
- Contributing to global and regional debates promoting rural transport, especially post MDGs
- Promoting importance of cross-sectoral linkages – emergency transport a prime example
AFCAP 2: EXCITING POTENTIAL TO BUILD ON THIS WORK OVER THE NEXT 6 YEARS