

TAKING EVIDENCE INTO PRACTICE

Workshop on Emergency Transport

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- About IFRTD
- Why Rural Transport and Development?
- Advocacy Messages from IFRTD
- From Evidence to Practice: Key Issues
- Why Link Research to Policy and Practice?
- A Checklist on Evidence
- Some Theories on Policy Change
- Networked Research Approach by IFRTD
- Practical Tools for Policy Advocacy Engagement
- Examples of General Information Products from IFRTD
- Example of High Level Information Product
- Challenges to Policy Influencing
- Building Capacity for Advocacy
- Conclusions



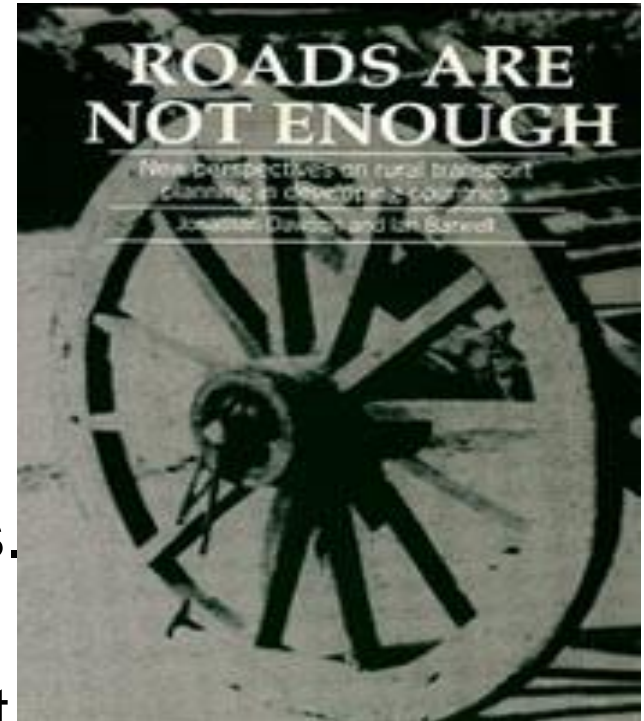
ABOUT IFRTD

- **Founded** in 1992.
- **Global network** of individuals and organizations working together in research, information sharing and policy advocacy on *rural transport and its links to development*
- **Purpose:** To provide a global platform on the social dimensions of transport especially in rural areas
- **Membership:** *approx.* 4000 members and 30 National Forum Groups. These are key channels for advocacy
- **Legal status:** Registered in the UK as a charity;
- **Secretariat:** works through part-time coordinators in Africa, Asia and Latin America



WHY RURAL TRANSPORT AND DEVELOPMENT[1]

- **“Roads Are Not Enough”**. A broader focus on transport as an enabler, linked to wider development outcomes and policy streams.
- **Focus on users** –people and communities - should be an important starting point for planners.
- **Means of transport** - both motorised and non-motorised – that provide mobility for people and goods an important part of the transport system



ENDURING ADVOCACY MESSAGES FROM IFRTD

- 1. Poor transport:** an impediment to poverty reduction and achievement of MDGs and post MDGs (SDGs)
- 2. Rural transport:** vital for growth and development
- 3. Rural transport requires**
 - Good infrastructure including well maintained roads
 - Availability of good and reliable rural transport services
 - A transport system that is equitable and serves the differentiated needs of society
 - Integration of transport planning processes with key development policies domains such as health, education, agricultural development etc



FROM EVIDENCE TO PRACTICE:KEY ISSUES

- **Public policy:** A chosen course of action in public administration in respect of a given public interest issue
- **Practice:** Established way of doing things
- **Policy and Practice Interface:** Generally mutually reinforcing, but In modern public management, policies have a strong influence on practice
- **Evidence:** Factual knowledge, based on sound research
- **Evidence into practice:** transfer of evidence from research into policy and subsequently into practice
- **Cost of lack of evidence:** policy inertia: Policy and practice based on intuition, conventional wisdom or individual discretion



WHY LINK RESEARCH TO POLICY AND PRACTICE?

- Need to connect the 3 functions
 - Research should provide evidence
 - Policy provides the multiplier effect – beyond small islands of excellence
 - Practice implements policies
 - Practice should feedback to research and policy



A CHECKLIST ON EVIDENCE

- Has the quality of evidence been tested?
- Is the evidence applicable to a wider policy context or is it contextually limited?
- Has it been synthesized and packaged in a way that demonstrates relevance to a practical policy issue?
- Are the platforms for policy engagement available?
- Are their pathways for transferring policy into practice?

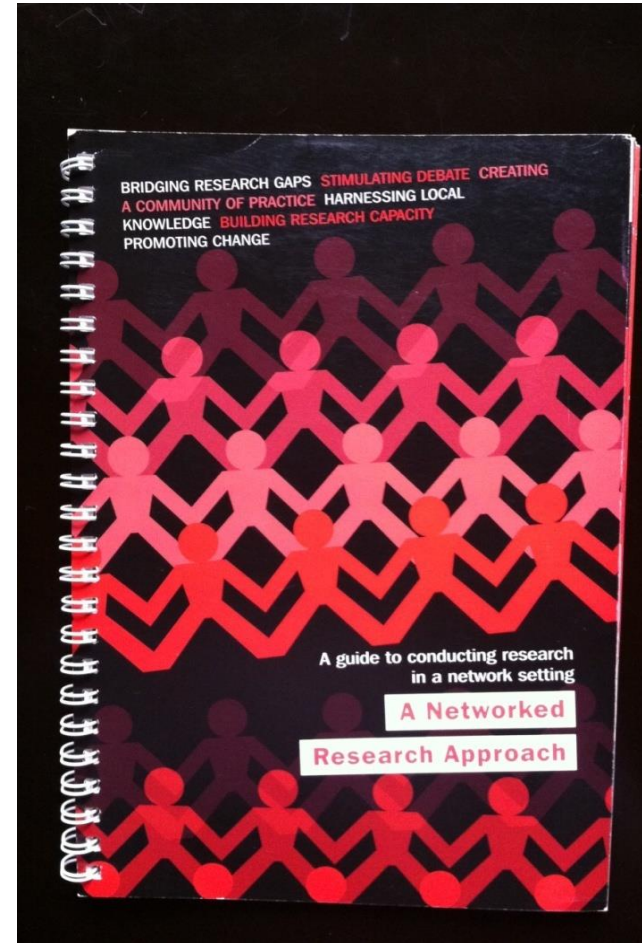


SOME THEORIES ON POLICY CHANGE

Theory	How it works	Enabling Conditions
Advocacy or Coalition Framework	Policy change happens through coordinated activity among a range of individuals with the same core policy beliefs	A sympathetic administration is in office; A strong group of allies with a common goal is in place
Policy Windows framework	Policy can be changed during a window of opportunity when advocates successfully connect various components of the policy process	Internal capacity create, identify, and act on policy windows
Power Elites Theory	Policy change is made by working directly with those with power to make or influence decisions.	One or more key allies is in strategic political or bureaucratic position
Grassroots or Community Organizing Theory	Policy change is made through collective action by members of the community who work on changing problems affecting their lives.	A distinct group of individuals is directly affected by an issue. The advocacy organization plays a facilitating role rather than the “driver” role

COMBINING RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY: NETWORKED RESEARCH APPROACH BY IFRTD

- IFRTD has pioneered the Networked Research Approach: A framework that allows its research communities to identify a problem, design a methodology and customise the research process in a way that allows concurrent policy engagement
- The approach builds ownership and communication into research design and encourages learning across contexts and stimulates local, national level and cross-country debates.

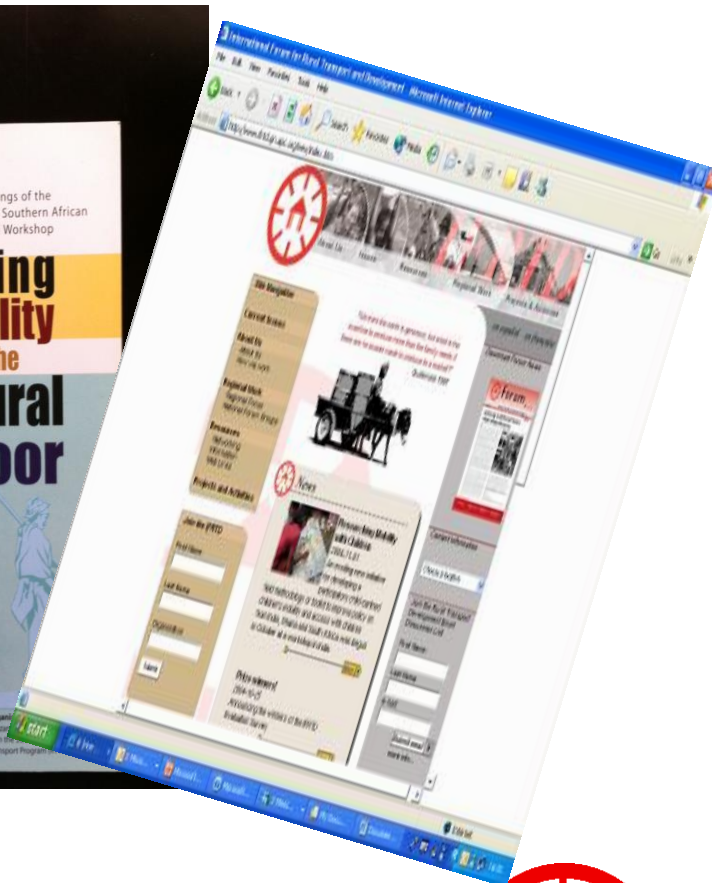
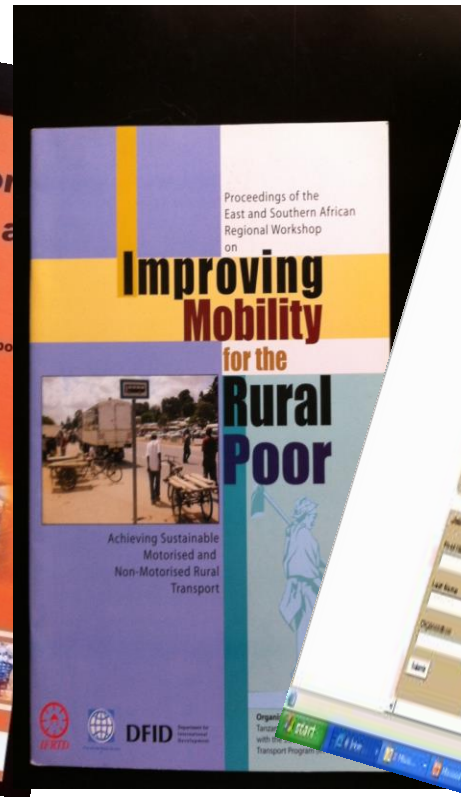
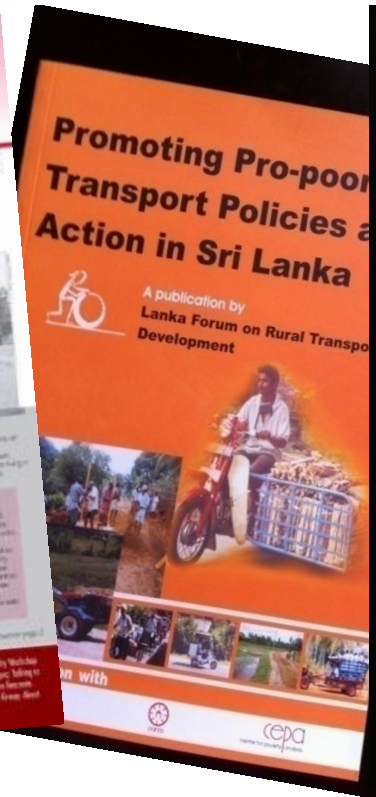


PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR POLICY ADVOCACY ENGAGEMENT

- **Networks and coalitions:** Driven by common purpose they are powerful carriers of key messages within their spheres of influence
- **Information products:** Knowledge packaged for different audience segments: General and specific
- **Tailored events:** Differentiated audiences, e.g., networking meetings for a broad group of stakeholders vs. policy engagement events with targeted policy makers.
- **Media engagement:** Particularly powerful in shaping public discourse



EXAMPLES OF GENERAL INFORMATION PRODUCTS FROM IFRTD



EXAMPLE OF HIGH LEVEL INFORMATION PRODUCT



CHALLENGES TO POLICY INFLUENCING

- Policy makers are rarely scientists and even if they are, policy making is not exact science!
- Policy makers are often fire-fighting, pressure for speedy responses often leads to “cut and paste” options
- Policy processes are complex, opaque and rarely linear or logical. Engagement strategies must be flexible and adaptive.
- Researchers may not have the political savvy required to engage in policy processes



BUILDING CAPACITY FOR ADVOCACY

- A wide mix of skills required:
 - ✓ “*Policy entrepreneurs*” (political fixers) able to understand the politics and identify the key players.
 - ✓ Good storytellers, able to synthesize simple compelling stories from the results of the research.
 - ✓ Good networkers to work effectively with all the other stakeholders,
 - ✓ Strategists: able to build a programme that pulls all of this together



CONCLUSIONS

- Relationship between research, policy and practice is complex, multi-factoral, non-linear, and highly context specific.
- Effective strategies should reflect this complexity and combine a variety of mechanisms e.g., direct policy engagement, networking, public awareness through media and general information products
- Capacity building in policy advocacy needs to accompany programmes that are designed to link evidence to practice



*When all is said and done, more
remains to be done than said.*

Ahsante Sana, Thank you!

