

# **MAINSTREAMING WOMEN IN RURAL TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT**

**A CASE STUDY OF KENYA**

# KANDARA ENVIRONMENTAL AND RURAL WATER AND SANITATION WOMEN GROUP (KERUWOSA)

- In Kandara Division of Murang'a District Central Province of Kenya
- High agricultural potential although the soil fertility has reduced
- **main objective :**
  - Enhancement of clean environment clean water and sanitation.
  - Bush clearing and filling of potholes on footpaths.

# TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT NEEDS AND PRIORITIES FOR KERUWOSA

- To and from sources of water and firewood
- To and from agricultural fields
- To and from farm inputs distribution centres
- To and from market and collection centers for the agricultural produce
- To and from health centers
- To and from grain grinding centers
- To and from work
- To and from social functions such as weddings, church

# OBSTACLES TO PARTICIPATION IN KANDARA

- Limited access to travel and transport means as well as other resources
- Gender power relations. Male-headship in most rural areas leads to both motorized and non-motorized forms of travel and transport being seen as a preserve of men
- Lack of economic resources
- Lack technological knowledge and skills to participate in rural transport and travel projects
- Cultural norms and traditions for example bicycle use as a means of transport is culturally unsuitable for women in this area.

# LARI WOMEN GROUP (LWG)

- Lari is located about 40 KMs from Nairobi City
- Rich agricultural hinterland
- **Objective:**
- Economic empowerment.
- **Challenge**
- Mainstreaming women in transport

# TRANSPORT NEEDS AND PRIORITIES IN LARI

- To and from sources of water and firewood
- To and from agricultural fields
- Transport of farm inputs
- To and from market and collection centers for the agricultural produce
- To and from health centers
- To and from work for the few who are employed
- To and from social functions

# OBSTACLES TO PARTICIPATION IN LARI

- Limited access to travel and transport means as well as other resources
- Gender power relations
- Lack technological knowledge and skills to participate in rural transport and travel projects
- Cultural norms and traditions

# MAGADI WOMEN

- No organised women group
- Objective:
  - Food security
  - Economic empowerment

## **Activities**

- Tending livestock
- Small scale farming

## **Challenge**

Overcoming cultural inhibitions

# TRANSPORT NEEDS AND PRIORITIES IN MAGADI

- To and from sources of water and firewood
- To and from grazing fields
- To and from livestock market and collection centers
- To and from health centers
- To and from social functions

# OBSTACLES TO PARTICIPATION IN MAGADI

- Cultural norms and traditions
- Limited access to travel and transport means as well as other resources
- Gender power relations
- Lack of economic resources
- Lack technological knowledge and skills to participate in rural transport and travel projects

# STRATEGIES TO REDUCE WOMEN RURAL TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT BURDEN - 1

- **Transport Interventions**

- Adopting intermediate means of transport including the use of bicycles, oxen/cows and wheelbarrows
- Enhancing the use of motorized vehicles by empowering the women economically
- Development of the transport services to increase access
- Improving the road network
- Enhancing women participation in rural travel and transport projects
- Introduction of labor-based road rehabilitation and

# STRATEGIES TO REDUCE WOMEN RURAL TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT BURDEN - 2

- **Non-Transport interventions**

- Improved Water reticulation to reduce the distance to water sources
- Establishment of woodlots around the homesteads as sources of firewood
- Introduction of alternative sources of energy such as energy saving cooking stoves, the fireless cookers in order to reduce the amount of firewood required in the home thus reducing travel and transport to the sources of the firewood
- Training the women in lobbying and advocacy skills to enable them demand travel and transport services
- Capacity building in line Ministries to raise awareness of the issues related to women participation in rural travel and transport programs