



Gender and Rural Transport Initiative

**Independent Evaluation Summary
and Select Country Reports**

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GRTI activities can be grouped broadly under five components:

- Promotion of pilot projects,
- Facilitation of studies,
- Workshops,
- Capacity building and advisory services, and
- Information dissemination and awareness raising.

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- (b) Evaluate the performance of each of the five GRTI components and assess progress and impact of GRTI in mainstreaming gender in target countries
- (c) Give a comprehensive package of practical recommendations

Independent Evaluation Phases

The independent evaluation by the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute covered 7 countries including 4 Anglophone countries Nigeria, Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe and 3 francophone countries Senegal, Cameroon and Madagascar

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- (Phase i) Desk Literature Review - secondary data was gathered from the GRTI secretariat for the design of the field questionnaires
- (Phase ii) Primary Data was collected from participating countries

Limitations

Several Limitations to the Evaluation were identified

- (i) Duration of the GRTI implementation was too short
- (ii) A 2 month duration to undertake the evaluation covering 7 countries was too short
- (iii) Unreliable Communication Systems
- (iv) Inadequate Logistical Support
- (v) Language Barriers
- (vi) Frequent Personnel Changes
- (vii) Low Response Level at 41.4 %

Conclusions on GRTI activities

Some of the conclusions reached during the evaluation of the country workshops include

- Workshop durations were short. Local level workshops should be longer
- Target audiences were diverse and as such workshop topics and outputs were broad and lacked application to specific concerns
- Training manuals developed need to be improved and adapted for wider application
- Workshop funding was typically adequate
- The major recommendations resulting from the workshops was the identified need to bring gender sensitization and RTTP activities to the grassroots levels, with greater local participation.

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Other conclusions from the country workshops include

- The feedback from the workshop participants on the content, presenters and delivery methods was generally positive. Similarly, favorable reactions were recorded by respondents on achieving workshop objectives and relevance of training to work situations of participants
- There was limited evidence that the workshops had resulted in greater understanding of gender issues in transport and constraints experienced by women in particular.
- In terms of implementation of actions plans that emanated from the workshops, only about one-half had carried out the recommended actions
- Dissemination of information on GRTI workshops was adjudged to be good.

Conclusions on Pilot Projects

- High involvement of the local population, including women's groups helps enhance the prospect of sustainability
- Favorable enabling environment such as existing development intervention made implementation easier and increased chances of success and sustainability
- Flexible funding, though limited, made facilitated easy proposal development and submission. All funds disbursed were accounted for.
- Right IMT quantities and types were delivered
- Even with considerable attention devoted to repair and maintenance of facilities and technology, there were problems in sustaining interest of local mechanics and salespersons
- There is a greater need for private sector involvement to make IMTs more readable accessible
- Information dissemination, while satisfactory at the higher organizational levels, needs to be more extensive at the user level

Evaluation of the Studies

The salient objectives of this component were:

- Analysis of the countries gender and rural transport policy and institutional framework
- The generation of gender desegregated data;
- Drawing out lessons and solutions to identified gender concerns in rural transport;
- Identifying best practices for stakeholders' guidance.

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The sources of information for evaluating studies were the following.

- Study proposals and Technical Advisor's progress reports
- Study Reports
- Researchers and RTTP Co-ordinators' responses to Field Questionnaires
- Consultant's field interviews and observations

Evaluation of the Studies

In all but two of the studies, collection of primary data formed the major focus in the determination of the methods to be used. In a number of these studies, a combination of quantitative, or survey, and qualitative methods was employed. Among the commonly used qualitative methods, Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs) and In-depth Interviews (IDIs) with key informants were prominent as well as other participatory tools.

The following are among the limitations listed by the researchers:

- Small sample size limiting generalization,
- The poor state of the road network / logistics problems,
- The influence of the climate and difficult terrain on project implementation,
- Delayed confirmation from GRTI secretariat resulting in delayed commencement of the study,
- Difficulty in obtaining information from women in localities where social norms limit their participation, and
- Time limitations to carry out studies.

Evaluation of the Studies

The studies generated very useful and practical recommendations for addressing gender concerns in rural transport. Among the other major recommendations were the following:

- Burkina Faso: Relocating infrastructural facilities and services closer to rural communities to reduce transport burden.
- Cameroon: Regional data bank to facilitate studies.
- Ethiopia: Innovative introduction can overcome such resistance to the cultural and traditional obstacles that may need to be overcome for women to benefit from IMTs such as animal carts.
- Ghana: Enhancing rural transport should be seen as a major avenue to alleviate rural poverty.
- Kenya: partnerships between communities; the governments, NGOs and the private sector were recommended, including people's involvement in problem solving as the best practice tool kit.
- Malawi: Training of local artisans to maintain the IMTs, the decentralisation of IMTs manufacturing centres .

Evaluation of the Studies

- Nigerian: Improvements in women's access to resources and services may be improved through their local groups that may require some capacity building to be more effective channels of development benefits.
- Tanzania: Provide capacity building at the community level to facilitate local management, promote accountability and ensure sustainability.
- Uganda: beneficiaries needs assessment surveys to be implemented before project implementation, and the beneficiaries to be properly initiated in new interventions, and to limit political interference in projects.
- Zambia: The construction of storage facilities at market centres to reduce frequency of women trips to markets.
- Zimbabwe: Quality service centres to be located near the households to free travel time for women.
- South African: study recommended that the survey instruments should be pre-tested for gender potency and sensitivity.