Too Much Work and Too Little Time: Gender Dimensions of Transport, Water, and Energy

#### Outline

The "household economy" time allocation data Household tasks domestic activities: transport, water, energy, preparing food disaggregation by task and by gender Policy implications & agenda



#### Revisiting the Household Economy: What do Time Allocation Data Tell Us?





Source: Benin -- Time Allocation Study, UNDP, 1998



#### Invisible?





## Disaggregating Household Activities by Task and Gender

#### "The Last Straw"

- Time required to prepare maize by manual methods: 13 hours to pound enough maize to feed a family for between four and five days
- A woman spends 4-5 hours every day to prepare the food her family eats
  this is twice the time it takes the villagers to grow and gather food and cash crops

**Transport Study Areas** Ghana: 8 villages; 51 HH Combination of three study areas covering major zones Tanzania: 19 villages; 431 HH Makete district in Southwest Zambia: 4 villages; 169 HH Kasama district in Northern province

#### Distribution of Transport Tasks (In Hours per Year per Household)



#### **Ghana: Transport Tasks**





#### Tanzania: Transport Tasks



#### Security: Access to Water



Source: www.unicef.org/statis (2000).

#### Water Provisioning



#### Wood Fuel Provisioning





## Policy Implications for Poverty Reduction and Health Sector Development Strategies

#### Policy Implications: 1 Significance of the Household Economy

5+ hours/day in these tasks over and above 7+ hours/day for women in agriculture tasks I ow productivity common to both sets of activities still not mentioned: child care! ack of "specialized" time

#### **Children: Essential Labor Force**

Integrated into production systems of the household

- Girls: 4 times more hours on productive tasks than boys
  - Of this, 1/2 in domestic tasks

while boys go to school

Substantial farm work: boys 15 minutes/day girls 40 minutes/day

**Policy Implications: 2** Time is a poverty problem **too little time** = trade-offs scarce factor of production abor scarcity as binding constraint (child labor?) valuation of time (esp. women's) gender division of labor "limited substitutability" for domestic tasks



Source: Allen 1988.

#### Women's Minutes/Day by Task



#### **Time and Effort**



**Policy Implications: Agenda** Investing in the household economy reduces poverty: ■give highest priority in PRS address ALL key areas to ensure benefit of time savings water supply and sanitation fuelwood and domestic energy labor-saving technology (mills, stoves, etc.)

#### **Traditional Energy**

Traditional Energy Use (as % of total energy use)



Source: World Development Indicators, 2001.

# Water and fuel investments significantly reduce collection time

Potential average annual time savings



Source: Barwell 1996, in Engendering Development, PRR, 2001.

 Environmental Health
In SSA 30 percent of illness and death is attributable to environmental factors

% of DALYs Lost : Sub - Saharan Africa



Water supply and sanitation
Malaria

□ Indoor air pollution

Non environmental causes

Source : Murray and Lopez, 1996. Data mostly pre-date the effects of AIDS.

# Environmental Health Environmental health interventions can be highly cost-effective

**Cost effectiveness of Env Health interventions** 



Note : Estimates vary widely, depending on circumstances. These are considered high estimates. Estimate for healthcare comes from WDR 1993.

#### Transport

- Problems in transport sector. Solutions?
- Attitudes: Load carrying is women's work
- How can men's and women's transport activities be redistributed more equally?
- Transport interventions enhance men's mobility. Design around different needs:
  - Gender-inclusive access to IMT and transport technology (cultural obstacles).
  - Reorient focus of transport interventions to meet specific needs/constraints of women.

**Domestic Energy** Enhancement Program (DEEP) Energy: biomass (woodfuel) Water/sanitation: synergy Prioritize domestic technology Transport: footpaths & IMT Key indicators for PRS: water within 400 meters woodlots within 30-minute walk