



CONCEPT NOTE

1. Key information

Global Sustainable Transportation Conference

Thematic session 1: Sustainable transport, poverty eradication, livelihoods and economic recovery

Type: Side Event

Organisers; UNEP, World Bicycle Relief, Bridges to Prosperity, Riders for Health, Helvetas (independent Swiss development organization).

Title: Models for Systemic Change: Accelerating Rural Access to Sustainable Transport in Africa

Date: Wednesday 13th October 2021

Time:

8-9.30pm Beijing /China Standard Time on Wed 13 Oct

8-9.30am Eastern time on Wed 13 Oct

3-4.30pm East Africa Time on Wed 13 Oct

Event registration link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/accelerating-rural-access-to-sustainable-transport-in-africa-tickets-182926898277>

Description: Nearly one billion rural people risk being left behind because they live in communities where jobs, education, healthcare and other critical services needed to end the poverty cycle, are out of reach. There is clear evidence that closing the transport access gap can significantly increase impacts related to poverty reduction, health outcomes, livelihoods, and economic growth. There is a need to urgently expand rural access to achieve the SDGs.

UNEP, World Bicycle Relief, Africa Network for Walking & Cycling (ANWAC), Rural Opportunities for Universal Transport Equity (ROUTE), and Catalyst 2030 will share new,

collaborative models for systems change to address the scale of this challenge and Ghana Bamboo Bikes will share community perspectives.

The session will share how these models can engage the public, private and social sectors to change the way systems operate and services are delivered at all levels through collective action in order to drive bold, new strategies. Discussion with participants will focus on how these platforms can optimise impact, and generate specific recommendations for action.

Background:

While over the last 25 years, the world has witnessed the largest reduction of poverty in human history, with more than one billion people around the world escaping poverty, this historic progress has been uneven. Nearly one billion people living in rural areas risk being left behind because they live in communities where education, healthcare, agricultural inputs, markets, and other critical services needed to end the poverty cycle, are simply out of reach.

- About 450 million Africans lack access to reliable and affordable transportation. They primarily rely on walking to schools, markets, jobs, inputs and healthcare.
- Researchers have estimated that [75 percent of deaths](#) across rural sub-Saharan Africa are related to distance – patients simply can't reach health facilities or can't reach them in time.
- According to the World Bank, "The single most important determinant of primary school enrolment is the proximity of a school to primary school-age children."
- Basic formal financial services still reach only 10 percent of rural communities¹.

This deeply unequal landscape prompted UN chief António Guterres to write recently, "*Income disparities and a lack of opportunities are creating a vicious cycle of inequality, frustration and discontent across generations.*" These pockets of discontent, often located in rural areas, are an urgent call for action.

Event objectives:

- Foster dialogue between UN Agencies, NGO's, governments and other stakeholders on mobility challenges in the rural context, with a particular focus on contributing to achieving the SDG's and the role of systemic change.
- Share and raise awareness on challenges and opportunities for investing in rural mobility.
- Harness the established urban transport agenda and broaden the scope to include the rural perspective.
- Generate recommendations for the UN, governments and other stakeholders on rural mobility to accelerate the SDGs

AGENDA

Moderator: Carly Gilbert- Patrick, Team Leader-Active Mobility, Digitalisation and Mode Integration, UNEP

5 minutes **Welcome and video Screening**

10 minutes **Setting the scene;** Rural Mobility in Africa - Challenges, Opportunities and the need for Global Action, Dave **Neiswander - Chief Executive Officer - World Bicycle Relief**

30 minutes **Panel interventions and stakeholder asks**

ROUTE - Why rural transport is so essential and impact of interventions

Linda Bihire, Strategic Partnership Specialist, Bridges to Prosperity and Agnes Montangero, Head of Rural Access Strategic Partnerships, Helvetas

CATALYST 2030 Transportation and Mobility Alliance - the power of collaboration

Andrea Coleman, Co-Founder, Riders for Health

GHANA BAMBOO BIKES - What do communities need?

Solomon Owusu, Development Manager, Ghana Bamboo Bikes

40 minutes **Audience Q&A**

Audience perspectives, reflections and recommendations for the UN, governments and other stakeholders

10 minutes **Closing remarks - UNEP**

ZOOM LINK

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82470953802?pwd=V1E2NUxjOFI4YTIOazNkdFEwTTNrQT09>

Passcode: 811534

Webinar ID: 824 7095 3802

Passcode: 811534

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SIDE EVENT CONTACT:

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