



United Nations
**Sustainable
Transport
Conference**

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FACT SHEET

INEQUALITIES

- Over 1 billion people worldwide still lack adequate access to an all-weather road, especially in developing countries, including countries in special situations. In Africa, 450 million people, more than 70% of the total rural population, remain unconnected to transport infrastructure and systems.
- Today, only 49.5% of urban residents worldwide have convenient access to public transport. This hinders their access to basic services and markets, promotes marginalization and can deepen social inequities.
- Those living in poverty cannot afford public transport. More than a fifth of their income is spent on public transport.
- The transport industry is male dominated, leading to the design of transport systems that are not gender responsive and less focused on the safe mobility of women and girls.
- When women and girls have limited access to jobs, healthcare and education, it impacts countries. Mobility barriers for women and girls can have a significant toll on countries' economic growth.
- Large disparities exist between countries and regions with regard to accessibility to transport. While more than 72% of people in Northern America and Europe can access public transport, in Sub-Saharan Africa it is under 35%.
- In many cities, public transport remains unsustainable, unsafe, inefficient, inaccessible or unaffordable – a situation that is particularly affecting people living in poverty.
- A 2017 report by the International Labour Organization identifies a lack of transport as the greatest challenge to women's labour force participation in developing countries – it lowers the probability of their participation by an estimated 16.5 per cent.

- Women and girls often face heightened safety challenges related to their difficulty accessing essential services. For many of them, especially homeless women, women vendors, and domestic workers, the need to regularly access public spaces and public transport creates heightened vulnerability.
- By 2050, it is expected that about 6.25 billion people, 15 per cent of whom are persons with disabilities, will be living in urban centres.
- For the 15 per cent of the world's population who live with a disability, many of whom reside in urban areas, available evidence reveals a widespread lack of accessibility in built environments, from roads and housing, to public buildings and spaces.
- An estimated 32% of public transportation facilities (mostly in developed countries) are not wheelchair-accessible with subway stations being the most difficult to access.
- In developing countries, data from selected countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Asia show that 36% of persons with disabilities consider transportation not to be accessible to them.