

Transport and Social Responsibility Thematic Group Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Present: Paul Amos (TUDTR), Julie Babinard (TUDTR), Sabine Durier (COSDR), Ben Gericke (AFTTR), Lies Goller (TUDTR), Rudy Van Puymbroeck (HDNGA), Stein Lundebye (SASEI), Alberto Nogales (EASTR), Peter Roberts (TUDTR), Jocelyne do Sacramento (AFTTR), Anuja Saurkar (TUDTR), Richard Seifman (AFRHV), Natalya Stankevich (TUDTR), Yukata Takamine (Consultant, email: yutakat@ll.u-ryukyu.ac.jp), Wendy M. Walker (AFTH1), Elizabeth Wiley (EASHD).

The objective of the meeting was to discuss issues and activities related to Transport and HIV/AIDS and suggest areas where further work and exploration may be needed. A discussion followed two short presentations:

1. A brief presentation by Julie Babinard and Nina Schuler reviewed the required linkages between HIV/AIDS and transport as well as some of the evidence available on transport and the spread of the epidemic. About 42 million people are currently living with HIV/AIDS globally and more than 95 percent of the people with HIV/AIDS are living in developing countries. The Transport Sector is especially vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and there is strong evidence to link transport routes to the spread of HIV.
2. Jocelyne do Sacramento reviewed what has been done to incorporate HIV/AIDS in transport projects in Africa. Main focus has been on breaking down stigma related to the disease, establishing short-term programs (less than 12 months), with emphasis on the workplace. The case studies discussed are retro-fitting projects and included Senegal, Zambia, Mali, and Malawi. A total of 19 out of 42 projects (about 45% of the existing portfolio) have been retrofitted. Jocelyne also indicated that a series of workshops with Transport stakeholders will be organized later this year in 6 Anglophone and 6 Francophone countries in order to review what framework of action is needed to effectively mainstream HIV/AIDS prevention into transport investments.

Discussion on HIV/AIDS incidence, the role of transport and the Bank.

Sophie Durier gave an overview of the **IFC Program Against AIDS**, which focuses on: i) identifying risk factors; ii) raising awareness; iii) and providing guidance to develop action plans.

Wendy Walker referred the group to both a reference guide and a report (AIDS and Transport in Africa: A Framework for meeting the Challenge) produced by the Africa Technical Transport Sector Unit (AFTTR) in collaboration with the Transport Policy Program (SSATP). The report could help other regions interested in getting information on HIV/AIDS prevention activities in the transport sector. She suggested that clearer guidelines for contractors are needed. Often the responsibility for the HIV/AIDS Information Education Communication (IEC) falls on the contractor's team, which has little training in outreach, IEC, and no guidance on how to set up a program. Good practices must be disseminated so contractors have easy access to the knowledge

available and are encouraged to have the properly trained people in charge. Specifically, what constitutes IEC? (Many make posters by hand with unclear messages instead of tapping into existing information); and how might it be accessed from other resources (i.e., the MAP programs) as well as integrated with other ongoing efforts in the area?

Dick Seifman briefed the group on the **Multi-Country HIV/AIDS program (MAP)** and the multisectoral **AIDS Campaign Team for Africa (ACTAfrica)**. The team serves as the region's focal point and clearinghouse on HIV/AIDS; it supports implementation of the MAP and the mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS into the Bank's work in multiple sectors; and supports Bank country teams in addressing HIV/AIDS in their country assistance strategies. The MAP is presently implemented in 28 African countries. HIV/AIDS responses are primarily done through 2 windows: 1) Line ministries (i.e., Transport ministries are responsible for making/ incorporating HIV/AIDS issues; funding is available through MAP); 2) Local/ civil society. Also, a number of tools and guidelines exist to provide support and there is an operational manual available to prepare and implement MAP support to HIV/AIDS in country programs.

In addition, a number of other points and suggestions were made:

- Lack of data on HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the transport sector may hinder high-level political commitment.
- Preliminary evidence shows the causal linkage between mobility and HIV/AIDS. In post-conflict Sierra Leone, lack of mobility seems to have confined the epidemic as studies done in refugee camps have shown lower prevalence rates
- Other regions need guidance and could benefit from the African experience in dealing with HIV/AIDS and transport
- Another key player in the Africa Region is the Environment and Social Unit, which is becoming increasingly responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS activities
- There are a number of simple things the Transport sector can do. Examples cited included prioritizing the rehabilitation of footbridges/ pedestrian access to health clinics; setting up agreements with taxi associations to limit costs for emergency use and body movement.

Suggestions for action

- A transport project strategy should be designed for HIV/AIDS
- Design a consultative process to find out how contractors think HIV/AIDS components should be integrated within contracts and assess capacity required by contractors
- Identifying impact indicators as well as documenting and disseminating possible good practices would have a great impact
- Moving the HIV/AIDS clauses in civil works contracts from drafts to final stage is a very important step that needs to be taken; however, consultation should first take place in order to identify what has worked and not worked in the field before making recommendations
- Transport project TORs/ bidding documents should be standardized to include an HIV/AIDS component

- Data on HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the transport sector should be collected to determine progress on fight against the disease in the sector
- In most projects, HIV/AIDS actions are only a small component. Many programs are trying to include HIV/AIDS as a topic in the social assessments, but some specific guidance on what should be covered and how would be very useful.
- Within the Bank: ensure that all regions can benefit from knowledge and experience available, particularly what is already known through the work done in Africa through the MAP
- Create a website that links the issues and resources available.

The group concluded that a small working group should be formed (and include Jocelyne do Sacramento, Wendy Waker, Julie Babinard, and whoever wants to join), with the objective of identifying gaps in knowledge and data on HIV/AIDS in transport. A tentative aim is to have the working group report back on July 7 when the thematic group is scheduled to meet that month