Changing the paradigm in transport planning

3 lessons from Freetown to transform urban transport—and your city

In data-scarce environments, disruptive thinking is needed

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A vibrant city: Freetown
Towards the transformation: Transit Reform Approach

Reform:
Institutional and Operational

Infrastructure
Routes
Vehicles
Lesson #1: Disaggregated data capturing different groups’ mobility needs and constraints must be collected.

Surveyed approximately 2,000 citizens and held focus groups to capture needs, constraints, and perspective about urban mobility—with a significant focus on vulnerable populations.
(cont.) Lesson #1: Disaggregated data capturing different groups’ mobility needs and constraints must be collected

Sexually Harrased

Biggest Barrier to Travel

Sexual Harresment by Mode

Sexually harassed – intersection with disabilities

Female+Disability

Female
Lesson #2: In order to transform data into impact, policymakers must plan a clear list of activities to integrate disaggregated groups’ perspective into the design of infrastructure services and policies.

**Stakeholder Engagement Plan**

- **Routes:** transition towards formal service, inclusive fare policies, and schedules that take into account off-peak needs

- **Infrastructure:** safety audits of project infrastructure and surrounding areas

- **Vehicles:** technical specification of buses that incorporate the needs of women traveling with family and goods
Lesson #3: Don’t forget to include monitoring and feedback mechanisms

Monitoring Framework:
- Users’ satisfaction—disaggregated by gender and including questions about reliability, safety, accessibility, comfort, customer service, and sexual harassment.
- Percentage of women change from informal to formal public transport services.

Closing feedback loop
Conclusion

- Design of an inclusive public transport needs to understand first the problems – for that it is important to have enough disaggregation in our data
- Citizen’s engagement plan should be at the core of urban transport - changing the paradigm in the planning of transport infrastructure and services