

# Connecting Rural Regions: The Vientiane Declaration on Sustainable Rural Transport (2017) and Sustainable Regional Development



**UKaid**  
from the British people



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Rural-Urban Connectivity in Integrated Regional Development:  
Implications towards Livelihood Security and Poverty Alleviation

New York, 14 July 2017





# SLoCaT Partnership

**90+ Members: International Organizations – Governments –  
Development Banks – NGOs – Private Sector – Academe**

**Mission: Integrate Sustainable Transport in Global Policies on  
Sustainable Development and Climate Change**

**Diamond  
Supporters**



**Platinum  
Supporters**



**Gold  
Supporters**



**ADVANCING  
PUBLIC  
TRANSPORT**



# I. CONTRIBUTION OF RURAL TRANSPORT TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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# Contribution of Rural Transport to the SDGs

## Key Messages on Rural Transport and Sustainable Development Goals



**Improved rural transport drives sustainable rural development and national growth**



**Better rural transport is key for food security and zero hunger**



**Poor rural transport condemns the poor to stay disconnected and poor**



**Additional money and commitment is needed to develop and maintain rural road networks and transport services**



**Better rural transport calls for local solutions to local challenges**

**Rural transport is essential to achieving 10 of 17 SDGs**

# Vientiane Declaration on Sustainable Rural Transport

- Adopted by 24 member countries of the **Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum in Asia** in March 2017 in Vientiane, Lao PDR
- Commitment to promote **inclusive, affordable, accessible, sustainable rural transport infrastructure and services**, to improve access to basic utilities and services





# Commitments of EST countries in the Vientiane Declaration

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- Promote **rural access, rural-urban connectivity** and **sustainable freight movement**
- Explore **climate adaptive road and infrastructure investments**; introduce **low-carbon rural transport (road) systems**;
- Improve **road safety** in rural areas (e.g. vehicle maintenance, driver/mechanic training, inclusive planning and management);
- Develop **national strategies and policy frameworks** to improve rural transport connectivity to wider transport networks
- Strengthen national, regional, global cooperation on **capacity building and technology transfer** on innovative rural solutions

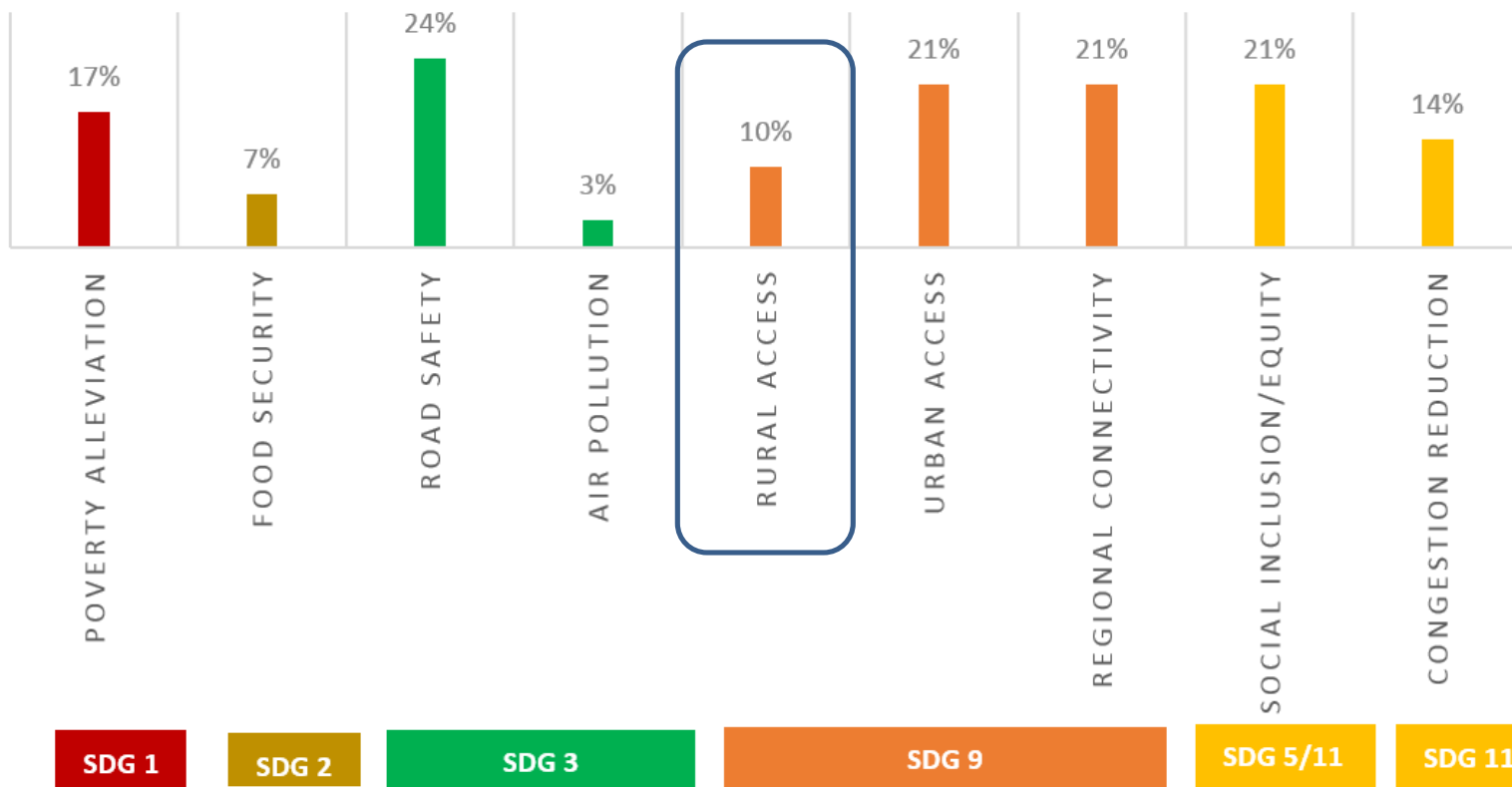


## II. RURAL TRANSPORT IN THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS AT HLPF 2017

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# Reporting on rural transport in VNRs lags behind other categories

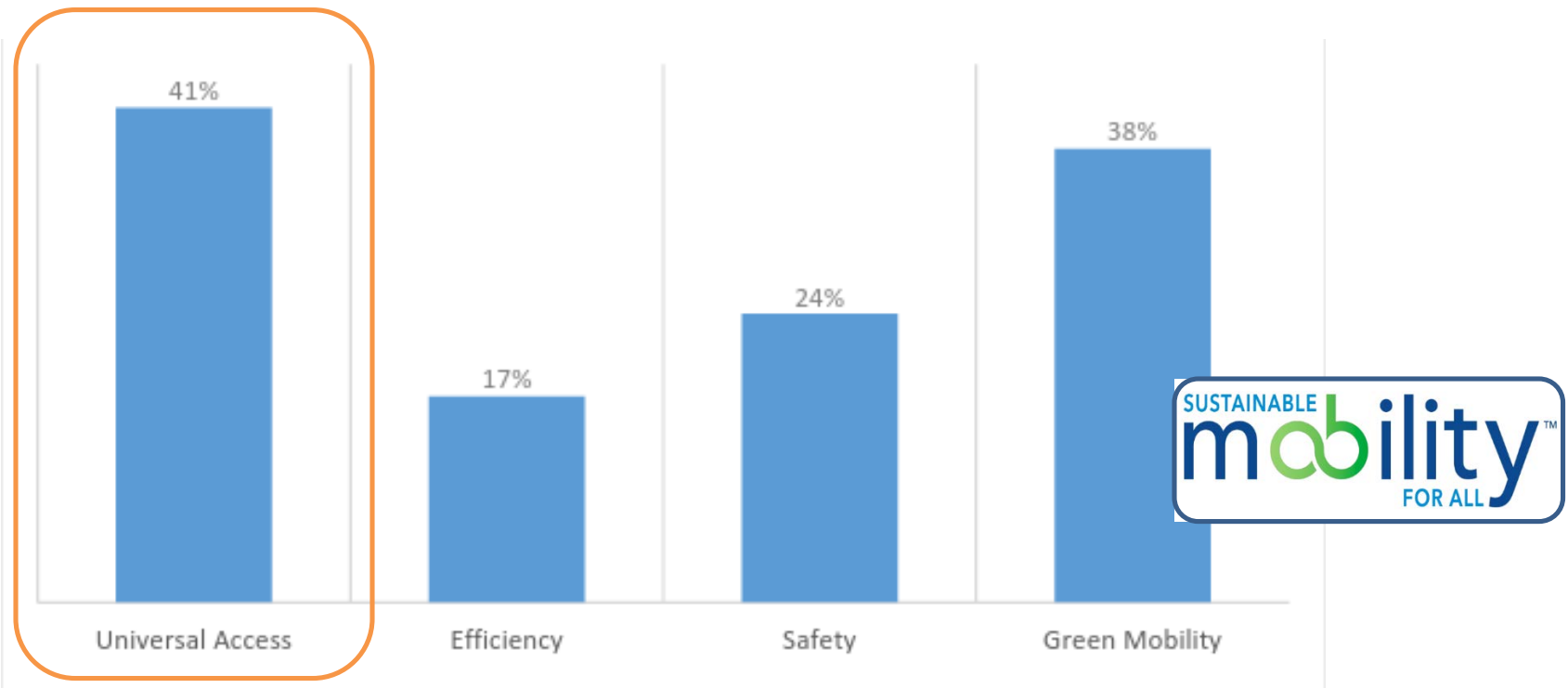
## SHARE OF COUNTRIES WITH REFERENCES TO TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS





# Universal (including rural) access is not referenced in most VNRs

- The Sustainable Mobility for All (SuM4All) Initiative aims to facilitate four primary objectives of sustainable transport
- Universal Access (including Rural Access) is referenced more than other SuM4All objectives, but is still overlooked in a majority of VNRs



## Rural access VNR reporting has inconsistent format/level of detail

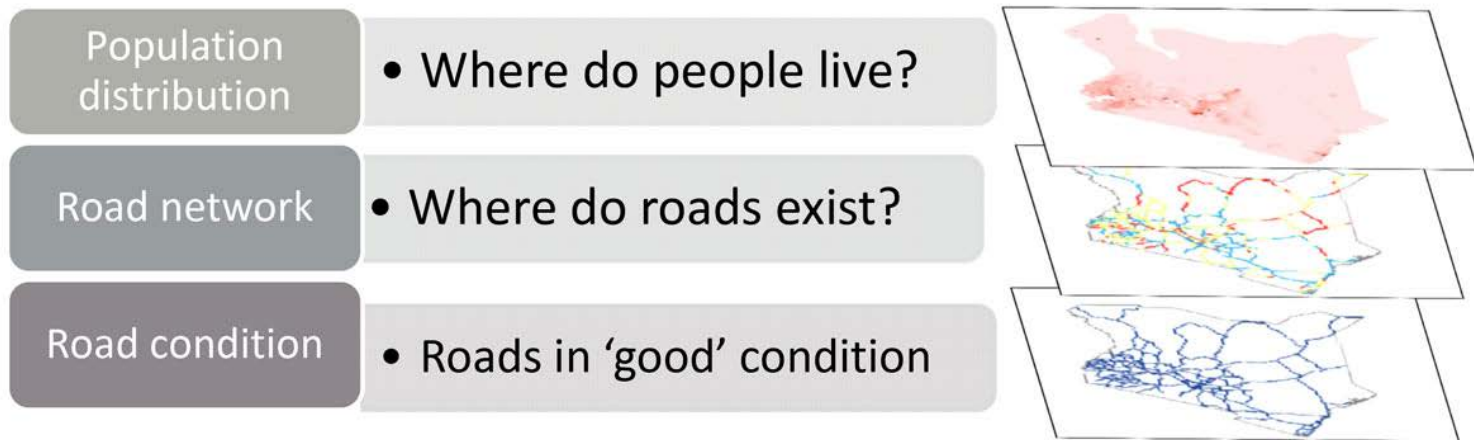
- **Afghanistan:** Investing in better storage, reducing harvest loss, including access to credit and a reliable (land and air) transport system
- **Bangladesh:** Constructed 28,697 km rural roads and 125,856 m bridges structures; establishing road master plan and maintenance strategy
- **India:** 70% of targeted rural habitations connected by all-weather roads; goal to connect all habitations of 500 population or larger by March 2019





# No country has set a specific target on rural access in their VNRs

- Seven countries (24%) include targets for sustainable transport in VNRs (e.g. road safety, e-mobility), but none are related to rural transport
- The Rural Access Index (RAI) measures population within 2 km of an all-season road (reflected as **SDG indicator 9.1.1**)
- **Uruguay:** In 2011, 92.3% of the rural population met the RAI; however, no time series data available, no forward target established





# Planned SLoCaT Partnership follow-up actions on rural access reporting

1. Support **UNCRD** in bridging Vientiane Declaration and HLPF reporting by linking commitments to specific SDGs and quantified country examples, e.g.

Vientiane Declaration Commitments	SDGs	Quantified Country Examples
Improve access to basic utilities and services (e.g. health, education)	SDG 3,4,6	Improved rural access has raised hospital visits by 20% in <b>Indonesia, Sri Lanka, the Philippines</b>
Improve transport safety, sustainability and efficiency in rural areas	SDG 3	Introducing highway patrols on inter-city roads in <b>Pakistan</b> has led to a 6% reduction in crashes

2. Continue work with **ReCAP** on elements of “Promotion of Sustainable Rural Access in the Implementation of the 2030 Global Agenda”



3. Explore new topics to improve rural access (e.g. monitor rural resilience via **Global Centre of Excellence on Climate Adaptation**)





# Thank you for your attention!

For more information, visit our websites:

<http://www.research4cap.org/>

<http://slocat.net/>

And follow us on Twitter:  
[@SLOCATCornie](https://twitter.com/SLOCATCornie)



Better rural transport infrastructure and services are essential to improving market access, generating income and contributing to:  
**SDG1:  
No Poverty**

