

ANNEX 4.4: GAPS IN DATA ACQUISITION IN ROADS AND ROAD TRANSPORT SUB-SECTORS

Among the problems identified that hampered the acquisition of indicator data were:

- (i) **Lack of properly established structures in institutions for data management**

The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics is the only body with extensive structures for collecting data. The data collected, though not exhaustive, is often used by transport planners. For example, the Ministry of Transport uses the Kenya Police in acquiring accident transport data that does however not give consideration to post accident value or usefulness. Generally the information/data gathered is often scanty or altogether lacking in detail.
- (ii) **Lack of adequate training on the part of the interviewer**

Training is crucial for documenting relevant information given the varied question weights, respondents and environments. Answers to questions will depend on how the question is framed, respondent's mood, trust and expectation, region's culture and how the interviewer conducts himself/herself. Often, interviewers are not properly trained to handle the varied issues and scenarios.
- (iii) **Questionnaires**

Questionnaires if not properly structured will either be partially filled or will contain incorrect information. Persons developing questionnaires should therefore be knowledgeable on technical aspects of issues under consideration while also being able to frame these in a layman's language.
- (iv) **Sampling**

The method of sampling, sampling size and criteria are riddled with inconsistency, inaccessible sections, and inadequate background information for sampling on the area under study. For studies under trend analysis, change of respondents and sample size lead to inaccurate conclusions.
- (v) **Lack of policy**

There is a general lack of policy on when, how, the frequency or regularity of data collection. The data collected suffers from delays and lack of objectivity.
- (vi) **Employment of the various data collection methods**

The Kenyan transport sector at the moment mainly employs the use of interviewing as main method of data collection. However, the methods used in data acquisition vary considerably from one stakeholder to another such that the information gathered is disjointed. Other methods which are more efficient - like the post card method that can be useful in obtaining vehicle operating costs - have not been employed.
- (vii) **Lack of funding**

Data collection is a very expensive exercise hence, without proper funding; acquisition of reliable data collection is difficult. This in effect affects all the other aspects of data collection and management.
- (viii) **Lack of sensitization**

Poor public awareness and sensitization or ignorance affects the quality of data, and willingness to participate in data collection. Respondents need to be psychologically prepared before the start of any survey exercise. Publicity of such exercises could be enhanced through the media and the use of the local administration machinery.