

The day to day transport pattern of a household in Zimbabwe

The Mapendere family live in village 34 on the Sachuru resettlement scheme about 90 kms from Sanyati, a thriving growth point. They are connected by a narrow but motorable gravel road which after 20 kms joins the main road to Sanyati which is good quality gravel. Despite good road access the family have no vehicle and rely on walking and hired vehicle services. The mother and daughter collect 20 liters of water twice a day which is a 40 minute round trip. Firewood is collected twice per week by mother and daughter; the mother carries 25 kg and the daughter 10 kg, and the round trip takes in the region of 1 to 1.5 hours. Once a month the mother hires a donkey which she loads with 60 kg for the 12 hour trip to the village where the grinding mill is located.

The whole family helps with crop production; the mother and father walk 30 minutes each twice daily and the children help out on Saturdays. The father goes twice a year to Sanyati to collect maize and cotton seeds. He sets off at midnight to reach the main road for 4 am where he takes a bus into Sanyati. He normally arrives back at the village at midnight the following day. An animal cart is hired to transport the harvest from the fields to the village. A villager will then go into Sanyati to try and find a tractor or truck operator willing to come to the village to transport the harvest to market.

The family only goes to the market in Sanyati twice per year, and during the trip they also buy seed. If someone needs hospital treatment they have to travel 12 hours by foot because of the scarcity of vehicle service. The nearest school is one hour each way walking and is also where the mother and children go to church on Sunday.

Source: S.D. Ellis. *The Economics of the Provision of Rural Transport Services in Developing Countries*. 1996. Ph.D. Dissertation, Cranfield University, Bedfordshire, United Kingdom.