



Winneba 12-15 August 2025

Barriers to pedestrian mobility in the city of Lusaka

Professor Wilma Nchito
Centre for Urban Research
and Planning, UNZA





Presentation outline

- Introduction
- Who walks?
- Why do they walk?
- Where do they walk?
- Do they face barriers?
- Do they feel safe?





Introduction

- The global urban population is projected to grow by 2.5 billion urban dwellers between 2018 and 2050, with nearly 90 per cent of the increase concentrated in Asia and Africa (United Nations, 2018).
- The rapid urbanization in African cities is both a challenge and an opportunity to enhance sustainable development for the urbanizing countries and has created a need for improved urban transport and mobility.
- As African cities grapple with urbanization challenges and seek to transform urban transport, governance and decision-making determine priorities and policies. This has raised questions regarding the objectives of policymaking in infrastructure and urban transport systems and interventions (Harvard University, 2019).



Introduction

- Zambian governments like most other African countries has invested enormouse amounts in the development of transport infrastructure to support the rapid urban growth.
- Infrastructure is one of the backbones of both productivity and inclusiveness. Societies depend on good infrastructure to ensure equal opportunity and access to services for citizens (OECD, 2017).
- However, inclusiveness in the urban mobility projects in Lusaka is lacking as infratsructure for pedestrians and othe Non-Motorised forms of transport is lacking, inadequate or substandard.



Data collection

- Survey of 92 respondents on their walking experiences and perceptions of safety on the routes.
- 5 key respondents
- Car Free day



Friday, 22nd September 2023

08hrs - 15hrs



WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON CAR-FREE DAY?

There will be no vehicles parked or moving along Thabo Mbeki and Nangwenya Road.

WHY CAR-FREE DAY?

Help reduce overcrowding while promote walking and cycling to make Lusaka a Safe & Sustainable City.

Promoting Zambia's Non-Motorised Strategy

Contact: Tel: 0953 736461 / 0974250838 Email: susan.mawele@zambianroadsafety.org



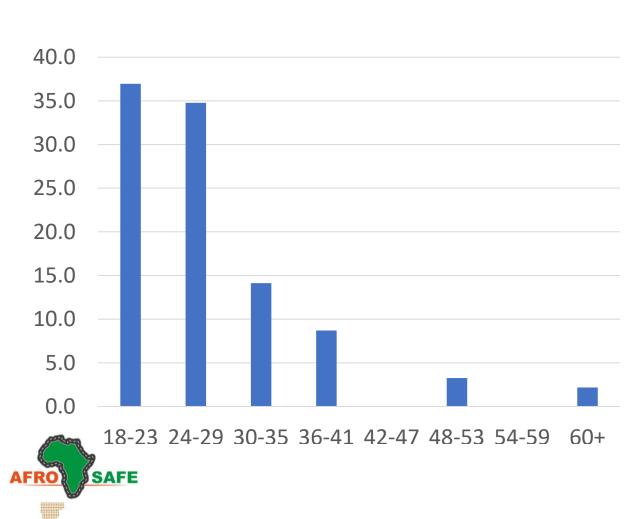






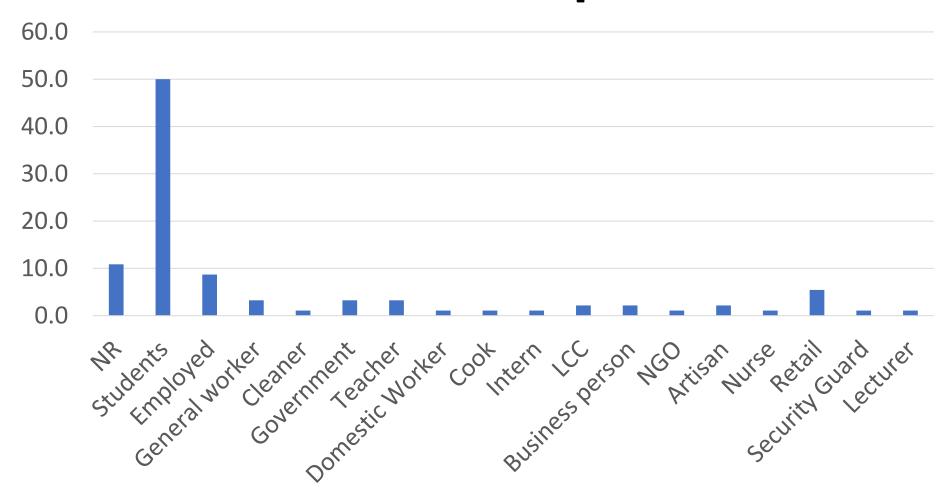


Who walks





Walkers occupations

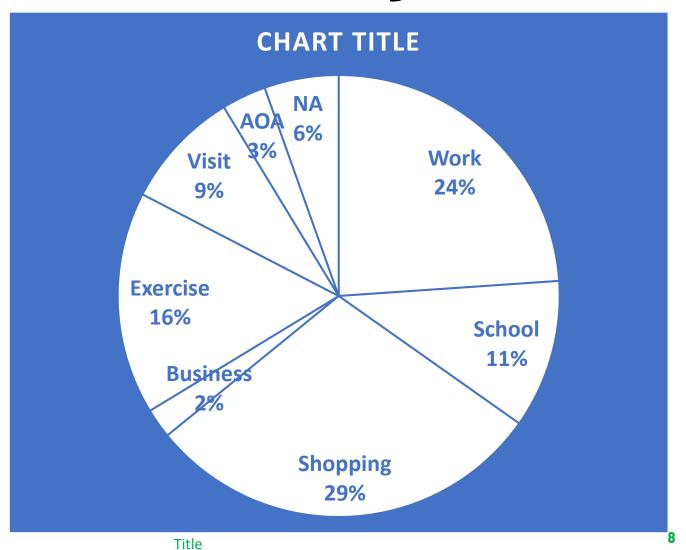




Reasons for walking

- Work
- Shopping
- Exercise
- School
- Visit
- AOA (All of the Above)
- Business
- NA





Where do they walk?

- Walkers often have to endure precarious structural conditions because there is either inadequate or no infrastructure for their needs.
- They share walking space with vehicles.
- Spaces provided are not looked after, not swept or repaired.
- Permanent or temporary obstructions along walkways
- Duality in quality of surfaces, some surfaces are paved many are not.
- Water logged and flooded surfaces



Pedestrian Infrastructure







Walking in unplanned settlements

It is more difficult and unpleasant to walk in unplanned settlements,

Surfaces are not covered, uneven and there may be obstacles in the way.

No clear distinction of walking spaces and spaces for vehicles.





Barriers faced







Pedestrian Safety

People reported feeling safe due to both physical and social aspects within their walking environments.



Physical Parameters

Bad road slows down vehicles

Foot path

Walkway

Pedestrian crossing

Street lights

Space for pedestrians

Visible signage

Speed limits

No obstacles



Social safety parameters

Low density areas safe

Near residential area
No drug addicts
Not crowded
People around
Safe during the day





What makes walking unsafe? Infrastructural Issues

- Inadequate street lighting
- Narrow roads
- Narrow walkways
- No pedestrian crossing
- No traffic lights for crossing
- No walk ways
- Bumps and stones





Social/environmental issues

- Speeding vehicles
- Overtaking cars
- Too busy (people and cars)
- Thieves
- Too many drug addicts





Conclusion

- Car-centric planning does not consider the needs of other users:
- How and where will young learners cross a six lane thoroughfare?
- What will happen to vendors at the two lane junction?
- What new route will the wheelbarrow couriers have to use?
- Where will the nearest safe crossing be for pedestrians?
- What will the impact of a major highway be on business and homeowners?
- Will the road expansion improve mobility for the disabled users?
- Are walkways adequately connected and continuous?



Thank you!

Title

Wilma S. Nchito

wsnchito@yahoo.com

18

