

# Expected Results

The EMPOWER project aims to make a change in the existing policies, regarding sexual harassment and gender bias in the transportation sector in Sub-Saharan countries. The most important expectation from EMPOWER is for policymakers and transport providers to have access to a Decision-Making Tool that will enable them to collect the evidence needed to identify the problem, and to apply the available measures to tackle it head on. By involving stakeholders from across Africa, the tool will be tested and validated to ensure maximum transferability. It is expected that use of the Decision-Making Tool will become standard practice across Sub-Saharan Africa, strengthening the evidence base from which policies can be formed and investment unlocked.

By creating focused communication around sexual harassment on transport, the EMPOWER project will raise awareness of developments in the area of sexual harassment in transport. The identity and the key messages communicated by EMPOWER partners at the local level will reverberate to all targeted groups, i.e stakeholders, and women affected by sexual harassment. The key messages from the applied research will be communicated across the HVT Programme and beyond via a growing group of stakeholders.

## Consortium

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**Tackling sexual harassment in public transport.**



## Safer Transport for Women In Sub-Saharan Africa



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# Vision

EMPOWER builds the capacity of transport professionals in African cities to more effectively address sexual harassment of women when they travel. This will help to facilitate gender-equitable, inclusive transport with improved participation and a diverse workforce sector.

The main project deliverable is the EMPOWER Decision-Making Tool. This will be a user-friendly, internet-based resource, that will improve the ability of the policymakers and transport providers to address the issue of sexual harassment in public transport. The tool and its resources will be a valuable aid for cities across the world that face similar challenges.

# Objectives

The EMPOWER project looks to help Sub-Saharan African cities:

- Provide women with safer and more secure public transport
- Provide policymakers and transport providers with an essential decision-making resource to improve safety and personal security within public transport by addressing sexual harassment
- Offer the evidence-base from which stakeholders can co-create solutions to tackle this issue
- Demonstrate how the sexual harassment in public transport can be addressed by multi-stakeholder collaboration
- Influence further research and planning practice by demonstrating the new types of data and variables that need to be collected to make gender issues more visible to decision-makers.

# Approach

The project is led by an international consortium, with partners from Europe and Africa. The research will be focus on four case cities: Lagos and Abuja (Nigeria), Blantyre (Malawi) and Kigali (Rwanda). It comprises an integrated data collection strategy (abiding by ethical principles) with innovative survey methods, focus groups and behaviour change workshops. The outputs of these actions will serve as inputs to the EMPOWER Decision Making Tool.

EMPOWER will engage with transport professionals across Africa, as well as NGOs and International Organisations when developing the Decision-Making Tool. This collaboration will support the transferability of the tool to more audiences across the continent and the rest of the world.

Some of the key aspects of the EMPOWER approach include:

