Hackathons in transport projects

Transforming the Growth Potential of Transport Investments

Young talent, technology and creative thinking for innovations in transport
Sierra Leone

Challenges in Freetown

• access to jobs and services impaired by inadequate transport services, poor infrastructure, and chronic traffic congestion

• local transport sector dominated by informal bus operators, low quality services

• accessibility limited for vulnerable groups such as women and people with disabilities

• impacts of natural hazards and climate change, heavy rainy season, flooding
Sierra Leone

WB project

• Integrated and Resilient Urban Mobility Project
• improve quality of public transport, address climate resilience, improve road safety, and enhance institutional capacity
• digital innovation and solutions in design and implementation
Partnered with GoSL’s Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation, the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, and SensiTech Innovation Hub

Hackathon: social event where individuals from diverse backgrounds get mentorship and inspiration from experts, and collaborate to create or improve solutions to a specific challenge through the use of technology

3-day event to design creative solutions in August 2019
• 4 key challenges related to urban mobility:
  • human capital, road safety, emissions, vulnerability to climate change
  • vulnerable groups in the transport sector

• Results:

• Prototypes for road safety education apps, parking apps, cashless payment systems, incident reporting apps (e.g. road issues, emergencies, instances of sexual abuse on public transport), bus information websites, bus management systems

• Adapted to local context: features for illiterate individuals or people with disabilities and basic mobile communication technology without the need for 3G/4G given low level of internet
Resilient Urban Mobility Hackathon

Winners

• 1st prize: A cashless payment system for public transport with adapted features for persons with disability
• 2nd prize: A platform for citizens to report road and drainage issues with great impact in flooding mitigation in Freetown
• 3rd prize: A bus routing system with emergency response

• Financial support and collaboration to implement and scale up
Hackathons for transport projects

- adapted to other contexts and transport challenges
- engage young local talent
- leverage digital technologies
- unlock innovative solutions