LMIC Road Safety

Road traffic injuries are a major but neglected public health challenge. More than 1.2 million people are killed in road crashes each year, and 50 times more are injured. Below are a few links to key documents in road safety that outline the problem and key interventions:

- The World Health Organization has several key reports that are key to understanding the problem – the World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention, The Global Status Report, and key “how to” manuals for implementing specific interventions. www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/road_traffic/en/
- The Make Roads Safe Campaign is the campaign for global road safety, and the website has some very good materials and short films demonstrating the problem. www.makeroadssafe.org
- The Association for Safe International Road Travel (ASIRT) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that promotes global road safety through education, advocacy, and targeted road safety projects in LMICs. They produce annually updated, detailed road travel reports for over 150 countries, which enable travelers to make informed travel choices. www.asirt.org

Road crashes are the leading cause of death and injury for healthy Americans traveling abroad. Young people, ages 15-24, are at greatest risk. They represent the largest number of pedestrians and users of public transportation and are more prone to risk-taking.

A few simple rules to keep in mind while traveling:

- Don't ride on motorcycles or motor scooters; if you must, make sure you wear a helmet.
- Tell drivers to drive slowly and to keep driving slowly.
- Don't ride in cars without seatbelts.
- Spend money to travel safety.
- If you are going to use taxis regularly, you might want to develop a relationship with a driver whom you know and trust and who comes well-recommended by people with whom you are working.
- Never get into any vehicle if you think the driver might have been drinking, using drugs, or is otherwise impaired.