



Road Safety

Each year, more than 1.3 million people die on the world's roads, and close to 50 million suffer nonfatal injuries. Every six seconds, someone is killed or maimed on the world's roads, with more than 90 percent of these incidents occurring in low- and middle-income countries.

The most recent analysis shows that Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has approximately 17 road-related fatalities per 100,000 inhabitants—almost twice the global average. By 2020, that rate is expected to soar to 31 deaths per 100,000, nearly four times the rate in developed countries.

It doesn't stop there. Road accidents are now the leading cause of death in the region among people aged 15 to 29, and the second leading cause of death for those aged 5 to 14. Traffic crashes also carry a large economic cost: many LAC countries lose 1–2 percent of GDP annually from crashes.

For the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), a collaborative effort to improve road safety is a top priority. In 2010, the IDB lending for transportation in LAC totaled more than US\$1.3 billion, with a strong emphasis on roads and urban transport. Roughly 5–7 percent of these resources were allocated to road safety.

FOR BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE AND SAFER ROADS

In support of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020 (the *Decade*) the IDB is implementing a regional comprehensive, multisectoral Road Safety Initiative. This pioneering initiative is working to make LAC countries better equipped to reduce the number of road crashes and their tragic consequences, and to helping these countries meet the goals and objectives of the *Decade*.

The framework of the IDB's Road Safety Initiative is consistent with the five pillars of the *Decade*:

- **Stronger road safety management capacity.** The IDB is working closely with governments to design and implement national road safety policies, to build better road systems that address the needs of vulnerable road users. For example, it is working with Uruguay and Paraguay to develop national road safety strategies and plans with specific goals. The IDB is also helping the Haitian government develop a safe corridor on one of Haiti's major roads.

Help save lives now.

Support the IDB Road Safety Initiative.

- **Safer roads and mobility.** The IDB now incorporates road safety into all its transportation and road infrastructure operations. In the framework of the Mesoamerica Project—comprised of Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama—the Bank is supporting the first subregional road safety initiative.
- **Safer vehicles.** To motivate car manufacturers to equip vehicles sold in the developing world with the same safety features as cars sold in more advanced countries, the IDB is supporting development of the Latin American New Car Assessment Program (Latin NCAP), which evaluates the safety standards of some of the most popular cars sold in Latin America.
- **Safer road users.** The IDB is working with partners at the regional level to support road safety education in schools and promote public awareness of the major risk factors of road accidents (and ways to prevent them). The IDB and its partners also seek to implement throughout the region social marketing campaigns to mobilize support for road safety programs.
- **Emergency services.** The IDB is committed to improving hospital care for road victims and support for people with disabilities.

HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN HELP

The IDB is seeking public and private partners to help ensure that road safety is treated as a top priority in the region. The IDB brings to the table its strong convening power, an official presence in 26 countries in LAC, its expertise in promoting regional dialogue and a technical team dedicated to road safety issues.

To support the IDB's work in road safety, please contact: partnerships@iadb.org

