

'Vaccines for Roads' can cut road deaths in developing countries

Source : International Forum for Rural Transport and Development (IFRTD) website

A new report by the International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP) prescribes simple affordable road infrastructure like footpaths, crossing points, and safe junctions to treat the pandemic of road traffic accidents in developing countries.

'Vaccines for Roads' sets out the results of a multi-million dollar 2 year pilot programme in 4 developing countries - South Africa, Malaysia, Chile and Costa Rica. In each pilot country inspections covered 2-4,000 kms of the road network - focusing on the roads where deaths and serious injuries were most likely to be concentrated. More than 30 factors known to impact on safety were recorded every 50-100 metres to build a safety profile of over 10,000kms of roads. The new iRAP tools were then used to generate affordable, high return programmes identifying where simple safety countermeasures like footpaths and crossings could prevent tens of thousands of deaths and serious injuries in each country.

John Dawson, chairman of iRAP, said; "We now have a whole new technique for treating road networks in developing countries. Through road inspections we can identify the locations where large numbers of people are exposed to high-risk of death and serious injury. We can then prescribe treatments to improve the safety of roads. Road crashes kill as many people in developing countries as Malaria and TB. The potential from these new 'vaccines for roads' is enormous."

The new iRAP methodology delivers:

- 'Star rating' tables and maps showing the safety of roads for car occupants, motorcyclists, bicylists and pedestrians.
- An inventory database of the inspected roads to help network safety and maintenance management.
- An estimate of the number of people being killed and seriously injured on each inspected road.
- A recommended cost-effective, network-wide countermeasure programme for consideration by local stakeholders and funding bodies.

'Vaccines for Roads' reports high expected investment returns - for each pilot country the estimated benefit to cost ratio of the recommended programme is greater than 10. In Malaysia for example an investment of US \$180m is expected to deliver US \$3bn in benefits and prevent over 30,000 deaths and serious injuries over 20 years.

For more details visit www.ifrtd.com / To download the PDF file of the full report 'Vaccines for Roads' - July 2008 visit www.irap.net

LFRTD is a network of organizations and people aiming to improve the quality of life of rural communities by reducing their transport burdens.

The network commenced in 1995 with representatives of the Ministries of Transport and Plan Implementation, Practical Action South Asia (ITDG), National Transport Commission, Road Development Authority, Commissioner of Motor Traffic, Southern Province Transport Authority, World Bank, Transport Studies and Planning Centre and universities of Colombo and Ruhuna. Later, Western Province Transport Authority, Provincial Councils, National Planning Commission, Rural Transport Promoters Ltd. in Ratnapura, Vinivida, Gamana Network, Center for Poverty Analysis, Institute of Policy Studies, SEEDS, Ministries of Highways, Local Government and Individuals joined in

LFRTD is also the national forum group of the IFRTD - International Forum for Rural Transport & Development' a global network with national forum groups of over 27 countries.

If you are keen to be a part of our vision & mission BE A MEMBER

& subscribe to this newsletter and other publications of LFRTD.

You are invited to send news of your village or your organization relating to rural transport either in English or Sinhala to be published in this newsletter.

LFRTD Annual General Meeting & Annual Session 2008

The 12th Annual General Meeting of the Lanka Forum on Rural Transport Development will be held at the **Sri Lanka Foundation Institute - No. 100, Independence Square, Colombo 07** on the **25th July, 2008** from **9.00am to 10.15am**. LFRTD will elect its new Executive Committee Members for the year 2008/2009 at the AGM.

LFRTD Annual Session 2008 on the theme '**Energy Efficient Transport**' will be held at the **SLFI** on **25th July, 2008** from **10.30am to 1.00pm** after the 12th AGM of LFRTD.

'**Energy Efficient Transport**' - Presentation Topics ;

Rural Transport : Meeting the future challenges

- by Mr. Harsha Wickramasinghe

General Manager

Energy Conservation Fund under the Ministry of Power and Energy

How a well run transport system could reduce fuel consumption in transport in Sri Lanka

- by Dr.Saman Widanapathirana

Consultant

National Transport Commission

Energy for Rural Transportation- Sri Lanka's perspective

- by Mr. Namiz MUSAFAER

Project Manager - E-net and Regional scaling up

Practical Action South Asia/Member LFRTD

Contact Us

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Public Seminar - 'Resettlement Issues on Highway Development'



Lanka Forum on Rural Transport Development (LFRTD) organised a public seminar on 'Resettlement Issues on Highway Development' on the 19th February, 2008 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. This event was sponsored by the Road Sector Assistance Project of Ministry of Highways and Road Development

Presentation Topics ;

An Overview of Southern Transport Development Project

- by Mr. S Meihandan

AGM Projects/ Project Director Southern Transport Development Project
Road Development Authority

Best Practices in Resettlement: International Experiences & Challenges

- by Dr. M Zaman

International Consultant



Mr. S Meihandan's presentation highlighted the key social issues faced by the project in acquiring land, paying compensation and resettling the displaced. The speaker emphasized on the quality of reconstruction of houses in the resettlement programme in Sri Lanka and on the importance of getting the communities involved from the beginning in future projects in order to make them part of mega development project.

Dr. Zaman focused his speech more on his international experiences elsewhere in the region particularly in the Jumuna Bridge project in Bangladesh. He said this first hand experience was very useful to the Sri Lanka project to develop and practice a very good methodology for resettling the displaced persons as a result of the construction of the Southern Motorway in Sri Lanka. The presentations were followed by a general discussion open to the participants to express their views and concerns.

64 participants attended the seminar and this includes participants from Road Development Authority, National Transport Commission, Asian Development Bank,

Ministry of Highways & Road Development, World Bank Colombo Office, Center for Poverty Analysis, University of Colombo, members from LFRTD and members of the general public.

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LFRTD Public Seminar :
'Resettlement Issues on
Highway Development'

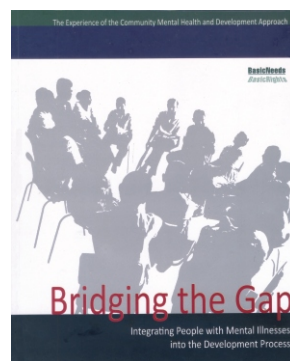
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'Vaccines for Roads' -
from IFRTD website

'Bridging the Gap'-
A publication by
BasicNeeds

LFRTD 12th Annual
General Meeting and the
Annual Session

'Bridging the Gap' - a publication by BasicNeeds



The publication reflects the learning experience of the Community Mental Health and Development approach pilot tested in Sri Lanka by BasicNeeds and how the community and those in health and development, the private sector and media could collaborate effectively for inclusion of people with mental illness in the development process.

One of the major issues people with mental illness and their carers faced in BasicNeeds working areas in the Southern Province was that of transport. There were no motorable roads and public transport was scarce. If they needed to take a mentally ill person having a relapse, for treatment, they had to leave in the early hours of the morning and travel over 100 miles to get to a hospital. They would sometimes spend the night on hospital benches and catch a public transport the next day. If the patient was in a critical condition, they would hire a vehicle as they could not depend on public transport. This involved spending large sums of money which they could barely afford.

Due to transport difficulties they would hospitalize the mentally ill person even when he/she could be cared for at home with regular treatment from a hospital. Yet, the ability to access mental health facilities in their own villages through BasicNeeds programme helped to a great extent to solve the transport problem for these poor villages in and around BasicNeeds working areas.

- Dr M M Kuruppu & T Senarathna (Eds) 2007. 'Bridging the Gap' -

For those interested, this book is available at BasicNeeds Sri Lanka, 600/3, Nawala Road, Rajagiriya. Tel : 0112871801