Rural Road Safety in Tanzania

Policy & Donor Roundtable
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Presentation by: Tom Bishop, Amend Africa Director
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• Tanzania:
  1,200km north-south
  1,200km east-west

• Over 86,000km of roads

• Over 53,000km managed by Local Government, majority serving rural areas
Need for Improvements

• Local Government road network in ‘poor’ or ‘bad’ condition = 43.8%

• MDGs, MKUKUTA and Kilimo Kwanza
• Providing all-weather access to markets, health facilities and education

• LGTP2: Improving 14,000km of rural roads over 5 years
• Boda-Boda Revolution
  – Cheap Chinese motorcycles
  – 88% of motorised vehicles are motorcycles
  – Allow journeys that were previously made on foot or bicycle, or were not made at all
  – Employment for young men

• Bicycles, pedestrians, 4-wheel drives, trucks, buses. Animals
RTI on Rural Roads

- 3 rural road study sites: 2 in Bagamoyo (Coast Region), 1 in Siha (Kilimanjaro Region)

- Up to 5.5% of population injured p.a. (compared to overall 0.3% in UK)

- 71% of injuries involved a motorcycle

- Over 60% of motorcycle drivers injured p.a. (compared to overall 1.7% in UK)

- Over 50% of motorcycle injuries suffered on unpaved roads

- Social and financial cost
Causes of Motorcycle Crashes

• 2 rural road study sites: 1 in Bagamoyo, 1 in Siha

• Are crashes caused by:
  – Driver behaviour?
  – Poor road design or condition?
  – Poor motorcycle condition?
  – Other factors, or a combination?

• Data collection:
  – Crash investigation
  – Driver and passenger interviews
  – Observation of driver behaviour
  – Expert driver risk assessments
  – Motorcycle maintenance checks

• How can we improve motorcycle safety on rural roads?
Options for Improving Safety

- Increase capacity of LGAs:
  - Road safety officer in each LGA
  - Manuals to assist District Engineers to build safer roads and perform road safety audits

- Consider motorcycle safety in the design of rural road improvements

- Improved training of motorcycle drivers:
  - Coordination between Traffic Police, VETA, NIT, LGAs and others
  - Nationwide

- Availability of safety equipment – helmets, eye protection, etc.

- Public education campaigns for all road users

- All solutions must be cost-effective, realistic, scalable, measurable. Not overly ambitious
Thank You

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