

ENFORCEMENT IN COMMUNITIES, THAILAND

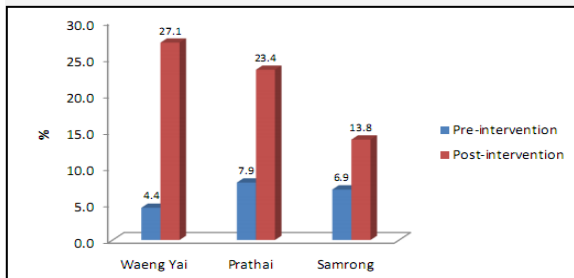


Date started: 2008 Date finished: 2010

Partners: GRSP and Thai communities

Cost/time/resources: 834,200 USD (JSDF/World Bank)

Main result so far: Community led enforcement has put helmets on heads



Thailand ranks among the top ten in the world in terms of road crash injuries and deaths. Motorcyclists, especially young riders, are particularly vulnerable. Data from the Asian Institute of Technology reveals that 76% of road fatalities in Thailand involve motorcyclists, and that 44% of these victims are under 25 years old. Only 15% of those involved were using helmets at the time of the crash. To tackle the helmet problem, GRSP has been with funding from the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) implemented a Community Youth Helmet Use Project

(CYHUP) in Northeastern region of Thailand, specifically in Khon Kaen and Nakorn Ratchasima provinces. The project has several subcomponents, Police Enforcement being one.

Summary project sheet.

Objectives and scope

The Community Youth Helmet Use Project (CYHUP) aims to reduce head injuries due to motorcycle accidents in Thailand, through increased awareness and use of helmets. The project followed a “Community Participation Approach” where local government and communities work together in order to achieve sustainable road safety outcomes in the project implementation areas (rural poor with high road crash injury rates).

Activities

The objectives of Enforcement Component were to gain support of local police, to educate, train and develop local police personnel in professional traffic law enforcement focusing on helmet wearing as well as to design and implement effective and consistent application of helmet wearing in targeted areas via efficient enforcement planning and evaluation. The training comprised of:

- Explanation of importance of helmet wearing,
- Thailand helmet wearing action plan,
- Helmet wearing law and police regulations in Thailand,
- The barriers and keys to success.

Working groups laid out detailed policing requirements in the specific target areas, focusing on locations/roads, local action plan specific to the target communities. A Thai police expert led the discussions.

Conclusion and main lessons learnt

One of the reasons for the increased helmet wearing rates was better enforcement of the helmet laws at community levels. Prior to implementation, common barriers in road safety law enforcement for police officers identified were insufficient manpower, financial constraints, and community pressures undermining law enforcement. However, assessments demonstrated that these barriers were lessened through the activities, resulting in more effective and sustained enforcement.

The strategies to lessen barriers included trainings for the local traffic police, which also served to reinforce the important education role that the police officers had in the communities. The proper techniques of running helmet checkpoint were also taught, as well as methods for data-led policing on helmets.

A unique aspect of the enforcement component was that the local police forces, volunteers, schools and community members were engaged in the design of the program. Social enforcement checkpoints were for example conducted by community work groups in support of police efforts by applying community-specific regulations.