

TO: International Risk Management Committee  
 FROM: Jessica Schrader  
 SUBJECT: Risk Assessment and Vulnerability Audit for Morocco  
 DATE: January 27, 2015

After a thorough review of current information about risks associated with travel and study in Morocco, a **GO** recommendation has been determined. The chart below details the health, safety, and security risks in Morocco, and it is followed by health and safety recommendations to help protect our students.

| Risk                         | Rating        | Description and Notes   |
|------------------------------|---------------|---|
| <b>Health</b> <sup>1,2</sup> | <b>Medium</b> | <p><b>Diseases:</b> hepatitis A and B, typhoid, rabies, schistosomiasis</p> <p>Tap water not potable, including ice in drinks made from tap water.</p> <p>Larger cities, particularly Rabat and Casablanca, have adequate medical care but it may not be to American standards with which students are familiar. Doctors will most likely not speak English. Specialized medical care and emergency care is limited in cities and not adequate in rural areas. Many medical facilities require payment in cash and do not accept credit cards.</p>  |
| <b>Safety</b> <sup>3</sup>   | <b>Medium</b> | <p><b>Most common crimes:</b> panhandling, pickpocketing, purse-snatching, harassment, and theft from vehicles stopped in traffic</p> <p>Knives and occasionally other weapons have been used in robberies. Street theft can occur at any time of day and regardless of how many other people are nearby.</p> <p>Women are cautioned not to travel alone. Certain parts of cities and rural areas are more common locations for assault.</p> <p>Soccer stadiums should be avoided on game days.</p> <p><b>Transportation:</b> Taxis and trains are considered to be generally safe, while public buses are not. Traffic accidents are common. Extra caution should be used when driving during the summer months or at dusk during Ramadan.</p> |

<sup>1</sup> (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015)

<sup>2</sup> (U.S. Department of State, 2014)

<sup>3</sup> (U.S. Department of State, 2014)

|                                    |                      |   |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| <p><b>Security<sup>4</sup></b></p> | <p><b>Medium</b></p> | <p>Terrorist attacks against U.S. citizens possible, particularly in places where Americans and other foreigners are known to gather.</p> <p>Political and social demonstrations are common. Violence is more likely in spontaneous demonstrations which have not received a government permit.</p> <p>Unexploded landmines are abundant in the Western Sahara.</p> |
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Note: The U.S. State Department does not include any travel warnings for Morocco beyond the current Worldwide Travel Caution.

Although some risks do exist with student travel and study in Morocco, it is determined that these risks are low enough to give a **GO** recommendation for students who wish to study there. However, several recommendations can be made in order to help ensure the health and safety of our students:

- **Encourage students to seek medical advice from their doctor about vaccinations.** While none are required for entry into Morocco, the CDC recommends most travelers be vaccinated for hepatitis A and typhoid, and long-term travelers to be vaccinated for rabies. Additionally, the CDC recommends a hepatitis B vaccination for anyone who might have a new sexual partner, get a tattoo or piercing, or have a medical procedure done in-country.
- **Caution should be exercised in choosing travel locations, means of transport, and activities.** Students should not be permitted to travel to the Western Sahara, and time spent outside of cities should be kept to a minimum. Students should also be cautioned against taking public buses, attending soccer matches, and joining or remaining near demonstrations.
- **Measures should be taken to avoid water- and food-borne diseases.** Inform students that they should only drink bottled water, avoid drinks with ice made from tap water, and eat only food that is cooked and still hot or produce that has been washed. Students should be cautioned against swimming in lakes, ponds, or rivers to avoid schistosomiasis.
- **Provide culture and safety training prior to departure.** Of particular significance are instructing female participants to ignore verbal harassment as well as strategies to reduce risk for pickpocketing and purse-snatching.

For more information, please see the following sources which have been cited above:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015, July 31). *Health Information for Travelers to Morocco*. Retrieved January 28, 2016, from Travelers' Health: [http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/extended\\_student/morocco?s\\_cid=ncezid-dgmq-travel-single-001](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/extended_student/morocco?s_cid=ncezid-dgmq-travel-single-001)

U.S. Department of State. (2014, December 10). *Morocco*. Retrieved January 27, 2016, from Country Information: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/morocco.html>

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<sup>4</sup> (U.S. Department of State, 2014)