

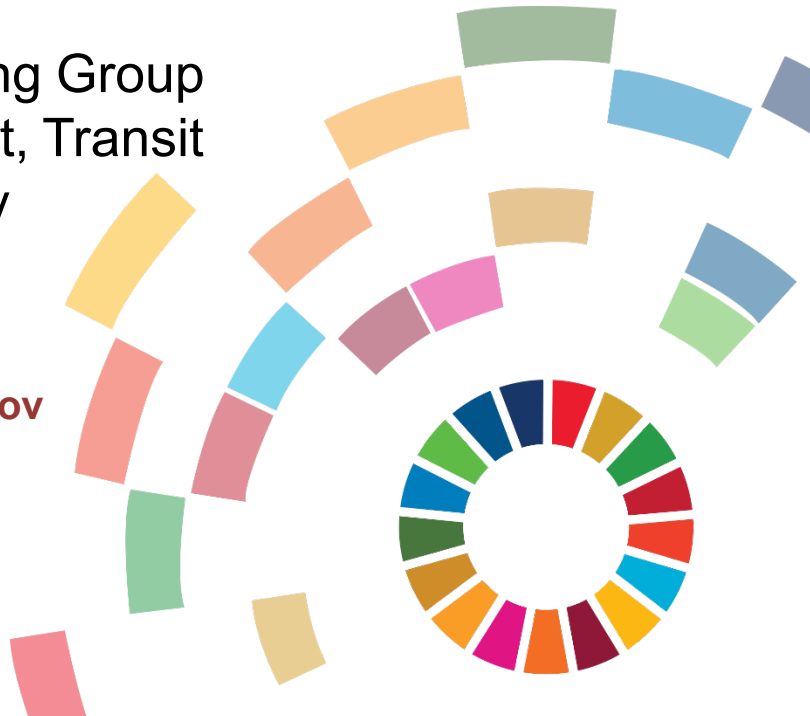
Road safety issues and policy interventions in SPECA countries

SPECA Thematic Working Group
on Sustainable Transport, Transit
and Connectivity

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Overview

The Global Status Reports on Road Safety (World Health Organization, 2018) highlights that the number of annual road traffic deaths has reached 1.35 million globally. Up to 50 million injured on the world's roads every year.

The countries in ESCAP region accounted for 60 per cent of the global road crash fatalities in 2016.

ESCAP continues to provide assistance to member countries through raising awareness and enhance the capacities of member countries in relevant road safety issues.

Overview

The average global rate of road traffic death is 18.2 per 100,000 population.

There is significant variation across SPECA countries (Table 1).

Table 1: Estimated road traffic death rate in SPECA countries

| No. | Country | Estimated road traffic death rate (per 100 000 population) |
|-----|--------------|---|
| 1. | Afghanistan | 15.1 |
| 2. | Azerbaijan | 8.7 |
| 3. | Kazakhstan | 17.6 |
| 4. | Kyrgyzstan | 15.4 |
| 5. | Tajikistan | 18.1 |
| 6. | Turkmenistan | 14.5 |
| 7. | Uzbekistan | 11.5 |

Source: WHO.

Data collection challenges

An effective monitoring and evaluation of progress on road safety due to inaccurate data is proving to be a formidable challenge in the world and in SPECA member countries.

In response to this data discrepancy, in early 2019, ESCAP joined the initiative towards the establishment of a road safety observatory for the Asia-Pacific region.

Road Safety Observatory

The Asia-Pacific Road Safety Observatory:

- the regional forum on road safety data, policies and practices across Asia and the Pacific,
- a platform for decision-makers to learn more on the importance of accurate and harmonized crash data
- Will foster the development of a synergistic environment to empower countries to collect useful and timely information.

As of end-July 2020, six countries, including three SPECA countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan), have confirmed their membership to the Observatory.

Road Safety Observatory

Second kick-off workshop under the Observatory was hosted by ESCAP in Bangkok in December 2019. Four SPECA member countries (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan) participated in the workshop.

A first workshop on implementation of the Observatory was organized virtually on 26 August 2020. Four SPECA member countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan) participated in the workshop.

For the Observatory to become a functional regional tool for improving road safety, it will be important to ensure its regional acceptance and wide-spread use.

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