



“Fifth United Nations Partnership Meeting for Road Safety”

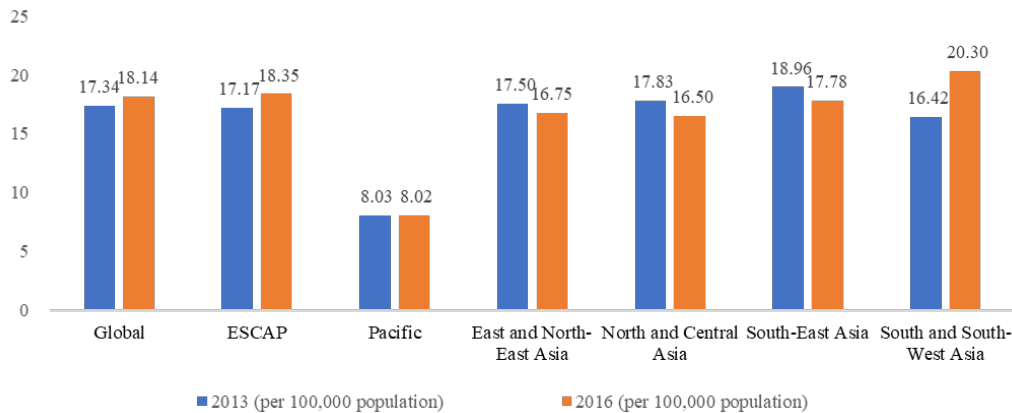
9 December 2021

ESCAP note on road safety in the Asia-Pacific region and recent activities and initiatives

Road safety situation in ESCAP region

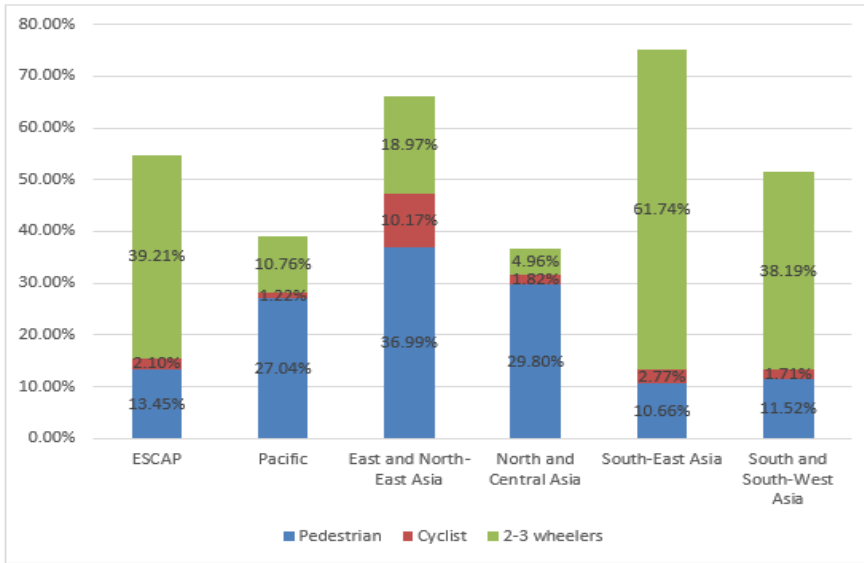
- Magnitude:** The Asia-Pacific region accounted for 60.2 per cent of the global road fatalities. With around 813,000 deaths from road traffic crashes in 2016 and a nearly 11 per cent increase compared to 2013, this trend goes against the target 3.6 of the SDGs which aims for 50 per cent reduction of road traffic deaths and injuries by 2020. The situation remains unacceptable and continues to be a major challenge for sustainable development.

Road fatality rates for different geographical areas in 2016

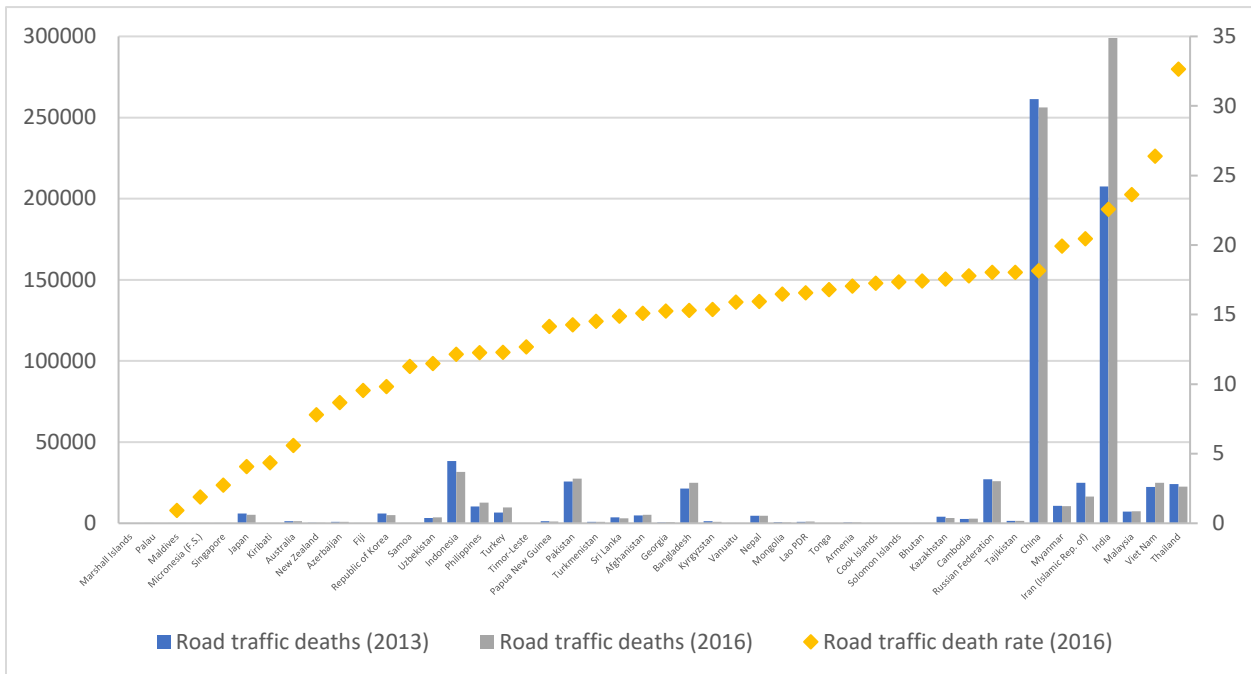


- Impacts:** Road crashes affect types of road users differently. Vulnerable road users- pedestrians, cyclists and motorized 2 and 3-wheelers represent more than half of all ESCAP region (approx. 55%) road fatalities. The burden of road fatalities is disproportionately high among upper and lower middle-income countries in relation to the size of their populations. The problem is more acute (54.8%) in the lower middle-income countries in the ESCAP region.

Vulnerable Road User fatalities in the ESCAP subregions in 2016



- Progress:** The progress in reducing road traffic fatalities has not been uniform among the income group of countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Between 2013 and 2016, there was more progress in reducing the number of road traffic fatalities in the upper-middle-income and high-income countries than lower-middle-income and low-income countries. Twenty-two ESCAP member countries were successful in reducing road crashes between 2013 and 2016.



Regional mandates

- Road safety remains a key thematic area under the draft new regional action programme for sustainable transport development for Asia and the Pacific (2022-2026) to be considered for adoption at the 4th Ministerial Conference on Transport on 14-17 December this year.

More info on Ministerial Conference on Transport, fourth session:

<https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/ministerial-conference-transport-fourth-session>

ESCAP recent initiatives and activities

- Under the United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF), ESCAP is currently implementing a project on the improvement of the driver licensing system in Lao People's Democratic Republic and, a project on strengthening the capacity of the Iranian National Road Safety Commission (NRSC) as the lead national road safety agency in Iran.
- ESCAP is co-hosting with the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for road safety a side event "Saving lives on the Asia-Pacific roads" on 14 December 2021 as part of the fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport. The registration is opened to the road safety communities at <https://bit.ly/MCTSideEvents>
- ESCAP, UN Development Coordination Office (UNDCO) Asia-Pacific and the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for road safety co-organized an event to promote road safety through the Regional Coordination Mechanism and Resident Coordination systems in the Asia-Pacific region on 6 October 2021
- A Regional Meeting for Asia and the Pacific on the "City and Transport: Safety, Efficiency, and Sustainability" was organized by Transport Division of ESCAP in a virtual format on 9-10 June 2021 in which the participants adopted the Bangkok Declaration on "City and Transport: Safety, Efficiency, and Sustainability". The Declaration recognized the importance of introducing measures to implement the "system approach" to improve the safety of urban transport systems.
- ESCAP worked with the development partners towards establishing the Asia-Pacific Road Safety Observatory as regional forum on road safety data, policies and practices across Asia and the Pacific. The first annual meeting of the APRSO members was organized in April 2021. The second meeting was organized in November 2021.
- ESCAP joined the Global Task Force to develop the Global Plan of Action, which was launched on 28 October 2021. As a follow up, ESCAP is conducting a study on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action through the Regional Plan of Action for Asia and the Pacific Region. Consultative and expert group meetings will be organized in 2022 to finalize the plan and ways forwards.