WFP's Road Safety Brief 2022

For the '6th UN Partnership Meeting for Road Safety'

To deliver on our mandate WFP has one of the largest presence of vehicles on the roads, making Road Safety a particular priority for us. With people at the centre of everything we do, WFP is committed to improving our Road Safety and has developed a road safety policy, in line with the UN Road Safety Strategy and other road safety initiatives. Our forward looking vision sets out to improve WFP’s efforts and activities surrounding this critical area of focus, below find some updates on our Road Safety activities.

December 2022
WFP Examples:
As our operations have grown, so have our staff and the number of vehicles we use. At the end of 2021, we used 2,970 vehicles in our operations, 90% of which are light vehicles and 10% are Armored or, “Operation Specific” Vehicles. We also used approximately 1,000 trucks in our operations during the same period.

Road safety reporting and policy actions:
Road safety programme
To enhance our focus on Road Safety, and to fully comply with the UN Road Safety Strategy, WFP has developed, and will soon launch, an internal cross-functional Road Safety Policy and workplan aligned to the UN Road Safety Strategy’s 5 pillars. This is also in line with WFP’s Occupational Safety & Health framework aimed at improving data reporting and analysis, helping to manage, measure and mitigate risks related to occupational safety and health (including road safety). A global road safety manager has been onboarded with the task of leading WFP’s strategy as well as supporting other ongoing road safety initiatives.

Vehicle safety actions:
• During 2022, WFP and UNHCR launched the UN FLEET. With its first pillar is to offer safe, effective and sustainable vehicles to the UN system at large, by leveraging the significant fleet management expertise of both Agencies.
• Additionally, WFP’s Fleet Center in Dubai continues to incorporate and expand road safety activities by:
  • Ensuring that all WFP vehicles are compliant with UN requirements, e.g., compliance with the standards set out in the Security Risk Management process and equipping these vehicles with properly functioning standard safety features.
  • Recommending to its customers vehicle models, tires & safety accessories suited to meet their operational context and needs.
  • Reviewing and evaluating safety technologies, market innovations, and product features to improve in-car safety of the drivers and passengers and other road users through the Research & Development programme initiated in 2021.
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• Addressing the problem of counterfeit/poor quality spare parts and tires through the WFP Fleet Centre Spare Parts Strategy 2022.
• Enabling drivers to report and seek remedial action for identified vehicle problems in a consistent and structured manner through the Driver’s Daily Check app.

Road user safety actions:
Road safety awareness actions:
Comprehensive and successful campaigns for Road Safety Week with global participation were carried out in 2019 and 2021. Examples of activities undertaken include: Development and dissemination of information and guidance (including briefing kits) for all staff and drivers, along with a revamped Wellbeing app with a road safety section for psychological first aid, and a global photo contest with road safety messaging.

Fleet Center actions:
Our WFP Fleet Center has mechanisms to ensure that driver behaviour and the human element of road safety is monitored and improved. For example:
• Vehicle Tracking System (VTS) installation in WFP vehicles, monitors driver IDs, erratic driving styles such as heavy breaking, hard cornering, and acceleration and over-speeding events, and detects collisions / crashes.
• Road Safety trainings for drivers and “Operation Specific” vehicle operators – also of other UN agencies – in safe and correct handling of the vehicles and of the accessories and equipment fitted into the vehicles.
• Development of a road safety training meant for all WFP employees
  • Personnel trained from WFP and other Agencies.
  • 34 UN agencies have benefited from WFP vehicle & road safety focused trainings.
  
  During the emergency in Ukraine, we trained “Operation Specific Vehicle” Operator trainer for the 49 personnel WFP and Other Agencies (24 WFP & 24 Other Agencies)
Global Fleet Actions (heavy fleet):

- Our Global Fleet team also works to strengthen the capacity of WFP’s field staff through the provision of technical assistance and training programmes often in partnership with commercial companies.
- Technical advice and support are regularly provided to COs, while Fleet and workshop managers, drivers, mechanics in the field receive hands on training on key elements such as safe and eco-friendly driving, maintenance and repair, and sustainable workshop waste management.

UN Booking Hub’s Focus on Road Safety:

- Less vehicles on the road means minimizing the risk of incidents. Since July 2019, WFP has operated the UN Passenger Mobility and Carpooling service on the UN Booking Hub, one of the UN Reform Global Shared Services to be scaled up in 2022. As an interagency collaborative platform, it has now served 1.2 million humanitarian passengers to date with 4,440 vehicles from 14 agencies in 1,320 service points in 95 countries.
- It also has an instant customer feedback service feature, that is used at the end of each trip to improve customer experience and encourage safer driving.
- A daily vehicle check feature allows drivers timely information on the need for maintenance at the beginning or end of their shift.
- A road safety section supports UN wide awareness of their key road safety issues and UN programmes.
- RBA collaboration: IFAD and FAO are collaborating on the UN Booking Hub at the field and HQ level with IFAD having signed an agreement for its use in global operations and FAO considering its global adoption.

Wellness actions:

- Increase in the number of UN clinics in critical countries to reinforce post incident capacity.
- Drivers undergo full medical check-ups every year to ensure they are fit and able to drive without problems.

Infrastructure and road safety actions:

- WFP Engineering, amongst other things, takes road safety to the roads themselves. When required, WFP Engineers work in the toughest locations to ensure safe and functional roads are built and rehabilitated both in WFP premises and in the routes we use to transport people and food.