

## 7th UN Partnership Meeting for Road Safety – 13 December 2023

### UN-Habitat updates and summary of agency's efforts

UN-Habitat's overall vision is to promote transformative change in cities and human settlements through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance and collaborative action to leave no one and no place behind. To achieve its objective to advance sustainable urbanization, UN-Habitat is making progress in its four interlinked Domains of Change (DoC) as per its Strategic Plan (2020-2025):

1. Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum,
2. Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions,
3. Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment,
4. Effective urban crisis prevention and response.

Road Safety is closely linked to all Domains of Change having a potential impact on access to mobility (DoC1) and economic opportunities (DoC2), on social integration and inclusion to enhance urban resilience (DoC4) as well as environmental benefits if linked to low-carbon mobility (DoC3).

Through its Country Offices, and together with in-country partners, UN-Habitat supports the development of better road safety systems on the city level by providing policy support, technical assistance and capacity building, advocacy, pilot project support as well as the co-development of funding proposals for larger-scale investments.



UN-Habitat's mandate on road safety is encapsulated in the New Urban Agenda, guiding documents within the agency and Sustainable Development Goal 11.2. Specifically, the organisation takes measures to improve road safety and integrate it into sustainable mobility and transport infrastructure planning and design. UN-Habitat promotes the Safe System's Approach called for in the second Decade of Action for Road Safety, with a specific focus on the pillars of multi-modal transport and land use planning, safe road infrastructure and safe road use.

Through project activities, predominantly in the Global South, UN-Habitat works to adopt, implement and enforce policies and measures to actively protect and promote pedestrian and cyclist safety in the context of better urban planning, with a view to broader health outcomes, particularly the prevention of injuries and non-communicable diseases. Through the development of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans, UN-Habitat assists cities in the development of a sustainable mobility vision, while identifying priority action areas with highest impacts on the environment, local economy, road safety and human health.

UN-Habitat and its partners also encourage national, subnational and local governments to develop and expand financing instruments, enabling them to improve their transport and mobility infrastructure and systems, such as mass rapid-transit systems, integrated transport systems, rail systems, safe pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and technology-based innovations in transport and transit systems to reduce congestion and pollution while improving efficiency, connectivity, accessibility, health and quality of life.

In its work, UN-Habitat is furthermore assisting cities to secure funding and investments for sustainable, safe, efficient, and equitable means of mobility. Besides the co-development of project proposals, the agency supports cities in identifying financial strategies in the long-term for own revenue collection to improve the usage of existing resources as well as their public financial management. The development of own-source revenue streams can play a crucial role in accelerating the shift towards safer mobility. Cities are made aware to consider strategies such as congestion pricing, parking fees and management, or land value capture to then reinvest the funds towards sustainable and safe modes.

**UN-Habitat’s ongoing road safety initiatives are captured in the following pages:**

**1) Reclaiming Streets for Pedestrians and Cyclists (Project Dates 2021 – 2024)**



Funded by the UNRSF, the Reclaiming Streets project takes a comprehensive view and works on a four-pronged approach to deliver concrete outcomes to enhance road safety and lower traffic injuries and fatalities in African cities. This is being achieved through accelerated efforts of governments and financiers in the areas of policy development, local implementation action and investments to design safer streets

and create livable public spaces. The project is being implemented in Mozambique, Guinea, Rwanda, Kenya and Ethiopia (Video link: [On the Frontline: Road Safety in Kenya](#)). Major highlights are:

- 12 cities within the 5 countries involved in the project have taken direct actions to improve road safety management;
- Tactical urbanism interventions to test improved road safety designs have taken place in Mombasa, Kisumu, Nairobi, Nakuru (Kenya), Matola and Quelimane (Mozambique);
- Additional funding is secured for cycling infrastructure (BICI call – The Bloomberg Initiative for Cycling Infrastructure) for 3 cities (Quelimane, Mombasa, Addis Ababa);
- Safer School initiatives conducted in Mozambique, Ethiopia and Kenya;
- Policy paper on “Mainstreaming Road Safety in Africa” developed;
- Policy frameworks on Road Safety reviewed or developed, such as Mozambique’s National Urbanization Policy and the National Road Safety Master Plan, the National Street Design Manual in Rwanda or the National Pavement Design Manual in Guinea;
- Co-organisation of a conference under the theme “Sustainable Cities through Transport: Improving Financing Mechanisms and Institutional Capacity” in August 2023, which brought together 11 African countries and financiers to explore funding opportunities for sustainable mobility initiatives.

## 2) People-friendly Streets in Afghan Cities (Project Dates: 2022 – 2024)

The objective of this project funded by the UNRSF is to improve the safety of urban roads and streets in Afghan cities by influencing the agenda for reform of the policy and regulatory environment for roadsafety, strengthening technical capacity and awareness building for safe street design with a focus on the needs of pedestrians and cyclists and increasing awareness on safe road use. The project activities are taking place in three Afghan cities with major highlights as follows:

- Activities like traffic safety awareness and training workshops have been conducted under the “7<sup>th</sup> UN Global Road Safety Week” and the events were well received by local school children and the authorities;
- Successful engagement with the municipalities of Kabul, Mazar and Jalalabad. The project was launched and multiple pilot sites are selected and undergoing road safety assessments along with redesigns;
- Initial design recommendations have been derived for the first pilot site in Kabul and are being discussed with the municipality;
- Successfully engagement with all stakeholders (municipalities) and existing road safety policies are currently under review for improvement.





### 3) The Global Alliance of Cities for Road Safety (ACROS) (Project Dates: 2023 – 2025)

Funded by the UNRSF and building on the experiences of previous road safety initiatives, this project establishes the Global Alliance of Cities for Road Safety (ACRoS) that aims to become a one-stop shop for cities to engage in capacity building, receive technical advice, implement catalytic action and benefit from city-to-city exchange. Major highlights of the project to date are:

- High level launch of the project during the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2023 in the presence of the Alliance’s high-level champions Mr. Jean Todt, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety; H.E. Mama Rachel Ruto, First Lady of the Republic of Kenya; Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat;
- Organisation of a high-level bicycle ride in Brussels in September 2023 during the launch of the “Make a Safety Statement” campaign;
- Mayor’s Forum for Road Safety with more than 100 participants in Istanbul, Turkiye, which kicked off a Mayors’ Declaration on Road safety with the aim to get it officially endorsed in 2024 by Mayors from all around the world;
- Provision of technical advice and supporting a funding proposal for Nakuru City for the development of a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan;
- Development of an online platform and preparing training course materials in collaboration with the EU funded TRANS-SAFE project;
- Development of a technical guide on “How to implement the Safe Systems Approach in Cities”.



#### 4) Safer Road Users in Nigeria (Project Dates: 2023 – 2024)

This project aims to support the delivery of the Nigeria Road Safety Strategy II (NRSS II) through strengthening safety programmes on a city scale and supporting a prioritization of low carbon, inclusive mobility systems nationally that place vulnerable road users, particularly cyclists, at the center of strategy and infrastructure planning. Focused on Abuja, the project will also create synergies and draw inspiration from its sister project “Reclaiming Streets for Pedestrians and Cyclists in Africa” to enhance road safety through the improvement of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, contributing to the drop of road traffic-related deaths. Highlights to date include:

- An inhouse stakeholders forum organized for critical partners to brief them of the project and set the stage, synergizing with the adjacent stakeholders workshop on safe streets to school in collaboration with the Global Design Cities Initiative (September 2023);
- Open Streets Event organized in Abuja in September 2023 to advocate for just streets with full day closure of a street in the city center;
- Organisation of a capacity building program within the frame of the Africa Sustainable Urban Mobility Course for decision makers, engineers planners and traffic enforcement officers in November, 2023 in collaboration with the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority and other partners with 114 participants from 7 African countries.





**5) Improving Motorised Two-wheeler Safety in Thailand (Project Dates 2023 – 2025; lead: UNESCAP)**

The project's main objective is to reduce motorised two-wheeler crashes, injuries, and fatalities in Thailand. In Thailand, motorised two-wheelers account for 74% of all road fatalities. Funded by UNRSF, the project's objective is to develop a master plan to improve two-wheeler road safety and prevent crashes from occurring. Activities include:

- Education programs & Community Outreach Activities;
- Activities to raise awareness about the importance of riding safely;
- Reducing the use of alcohol and drugs while riding a motorcycle;
- Motorcycle-friendly highway design, such as providing guidelines for road design engineering and maintenance, with a particular emphasis on two-wheeler safety;
- Legislation and enforcement with a focus on two-wheeler safety.