



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 December 2021

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Eighty-fourth session

Geneva, 22–25 February 2022

Item 9 (m) of the provisional agenda

Strategic questions of a horizontal and cross-sectoral policy or regulatory nature:

United Nations Road Safety Fund

2021 progress report of the United Nations Road Safety Fund

Note by the secretariat of the United Nations Road Safety Fund

Summary

The vision of the Fund is to build a world where roads are safe for every road user, everywhere.

- Its mission is to finance — and leverage further funding for — projects with significant and sustainable impact on road safety, based on established and internationally recognized best practices that increase road safety and minimize and eventually eliminate road crash trauma for all road users.

The Committee may wish to:

- **Provide comments** on the activities of the United Nations Road Safety Fund
- **Provide guidance** on upcoming project financing, fundraising and communications activities of the United Nations Road Safety Fund

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Road Safety Fund was launched in April 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, pursuant to the General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/260. The Fund aims to help low- and middle-income countries put in place effective national road safety systems to (a) substantially curb the number of fatalities and injuries from road crashes, and (b) reduce economic losses resulting from them.

2. In August 2020, the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/74/299 proclaimed a new Decade of Action for Road Safety, with the target to halve the number of road deaths and injuries between 2021 and 2030. The Resolution invites Members to support the activities of United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety and the United Nations Road Safety Fund.



3. As a unique financing instrument, bringing together United Nations organizations under one umbrella, and supported by governments, private sector, academia and civil society, the Fund supports concrete actions helping to achieve the road safety related targets (target 3.6 and target 11.2) of the Sustainable Development Goals. With eleven participating United Nations organizations, the Fund is leveraging the strengths of the United Nations system in addressing the road safety crisis.

4. The Fund seeks to use its funding in a catalytic way, leveraging its unique position as a United Nations fund to trigger further domestic and international investments, thus ensuring an impact far beyond its own grants. Guided by the safe system principles embedded in its Global Framework Plan of Action for Road Safety, the Fund ensures effective and coordinated investment in what works best and has tangible impacts on road safety.

II. Governing Bodies

5. Hosted by the Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva, under the direct supervision of the Economic Commission for Europe Executive Secretary since 1 October 2020, the secretariat provides substantive, operational and logistical support to the Advisory Board and the Steering Committee.

6. The secretariat continued its efforts to service its governing bodies in 2021. It organized two sessions of the Steering Committee and one Advisory Board meeting. Two informal meetings of the Advisory Board were also organized.

7. During its eighth session in April 2021, the Steering Committee approved ten projects to be financed under the 2020 Call for Proposals, with a total budget of \$4 million.

8. In March 2021, an informal session of the Advisory Board was held where members discussed the Fund's communications and fundraising activities with a view to identifying entry points for member support and engagement.

9. In June 2021, the Advisory Board met informally to discuss the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety, the independent evaluation of the secretariat and the Fund's advocacy road map. Members were also provided with an update on the outcome of the 2020 call for proposals.

10. At its fifth session on 20 October 2020, the Advisory Board welcomed the planned UNRSF fundraising and communications efforts. The Board committed support to ongoing efforts to step up fundraising ahead of the planned replenishment cycle (2021–2022) culminating in a UNRSF Pledging Conference during the United Nations High Level Meeting on Road Safety in New York, July 2022, through direct pledges or advocacy. The Board decided to launch the next UNRSF Call for Proposals in spring next year with a special session in March 2022 to endorse the business plan 2022–25 in advance of the launch.

11. At its ninth session on 21 October 2021, the Steering Committee endorsed the secretariat's fundraising and communications efforts and the Board's decisions for the timing of the next Call for Proposals. The Committee also approved the secretariat budget for 2022.

12. The next sessions of the governing bodies will take place jointly as joint informal discussions in early 2022 to discuss fundraising and the United Nations Road Safety Fund business plan 2022–25.

III. Projects

13. More than three years after its establishment, the Fund has proven its value-add and effectively positioned itself as a solution to the world's enduring road safety challenge.

14. The Fund is currently financing 25 projects, covering four regions, in 30 countries, ranging from improving infrastructure for active mobility, capacity-building, policy and law enforcement to strengthening data collection systems. Forty-six per cent of these projects are being implemented in sub-Saharan Africa.

15. The latest set of 10 new projects were launched in October 2021, after being selected by the Steering Committee in April 2021. Successful projects were convened in project workshops with all partners with a view to incorporating feedback from the panel of experts and the Steering Committee members. After the workshops, the selected projects submitted additional documentation for clearance to the secretariat prior to disbursement of funds.

16. Some of the goals of the new projects are: ensuring that children in Paraguay have safer ways to get to and from schools; strengthening the medical post-crash response in Bangladesh; developing streets for safer and low-carbon mobility of pedestrians and cyclists in East Africa; and strengthening road safety data management and policy design in the Arab region.

Project Results

17. Despite the challenges posed by the ongoing global pandemic and other implementation hurdles, the Fund has recorded concrete progress in its efforts to improve global road safety, in part due to timely course corrections and other mitigation measures (see [Adaptive Programming during Covid-19](#)).

18. In Ethiopia, the UNRSF-funded project resulted in the adoption of a Non-Motorised Transport (NMT) Strategy for Ethiopia and Addis Ababa, and a five-year implementation plan for 69 cities and towns with harmonised street design guidelines guiding investments in safer facilities for walking and cycling. The government has begun implementing a national plan to construct 300 km of walking and cycling lanes, safely separated from vehicular traffic. This lasting change in the country's road infrastructure is a legacy that will substantially improve road safety for millions of Ethiopian citizens and tourists.

19. In West Africa, 15 countries received support which ultimately resulted in the celebrated adoption of a single environmental used car standard with embedded important road safety requirements. Implementing the standard will yield significant people and planet saving impact for millions of West African citizens and visitors.

20. In Brazil, the road traffic rule enforcement system has been strengthened in the State of Pará, increasing the efficiency of traffic officers by reviewing and updating their operational practices by means of specific training sessions based on the main risk factors and focused on the activities established in the National Road Safety Plan 2019–2028. These interventions have resulted in a reported decrease in the rate of traffic deaths per 100,000 inhabitants from 17.03 in 2019 to 15.64 in 2020.

21. Other key results of UNRSF-funded projects over the course of the last two years include: capacity-building of 400 enforcers; national road traffic committees/task forces established in three countries; 177 action plans at national, provincial and local levels as well as two national road safety memorandums in Ethiopia and Paraguay; and an evaluation of school safety around 12 primary schools in Zambia, which fed into a road safety for schools campaign. Project results are reported in the [UNRSF Results Brochure](#) as well as the [Annual Report](#) launched in May 2021.

IV. Fundraising Activities

22. The United Nations Road Safety Fund has so far attracted almost \$20 million in pledges from seventeen donors from the public and private sectors. There are a few new donors in the hard pipeline. While this is good progress, the Fund needs to go much further to reach its ambitions and is making a call for replenishment of funding for 2022 to 2025 with target of \$100 million reflecting the requests submitted to-date for its calls for proposals.

23. The Fund's ongoing and planned fundraising efforts are taking place at the level of countries, corporates and citizens. At the level of countries, significant efforts are being undertaken with the support of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety Mr. Jean Todt, the Economic Commission for Europe Executive Secretary Ms. Olga Algayerova, the Chair of the Advisory Board, Mr. Matthew Baldwin, as well as members of the Fund's governing bodies.

24. On the individual track, the Fund has launched a new website with an option for individuals to donate: www.roadsafetyfund.un.org. In conjunction with the global campaign (see Section V on Communications and Outreach Activities below), the voluntary individual giving option will provide an opportunity to support the Fund's life-saving projects.

25. On the corporate track, existing corporate donors including Essilor, FIA Foundation, Pirelli, TotalEnergies, Michelin Corporate Foundation and La Nuez have indicated their intention to pledge further support to the Fund beyond 2021. Moreover, new, innovative and long-term commitments are in the final stages of negotiation including a multi-year financial contribution from the insurance sector derived from insurance policy commissions; consumer-facing fundraising arrangements with mobility and fashion companies; a private-sector hosted fundraising gala; and a pledge of \$1 million from a global vehicle safety company.

26. Efforts are being made to mobilize contributions leading up to the planned UNRSF Pledging Conference during the United Nations High Level Meeting on Road Safety in New York, July 2022. The secretariat will support and participate in the preparatory meeting for the High Level Meeting for Road Safety in December 2021.

V. Communication and Outreach Activities

27. The secretariat increased the visibility of the Fund since its launch with the publication of more than 60 publications, organized more than 30 events, and implemented more than 15 social media campaigns in as many low- and -middle income countries. The Fund's social media presence reached ever-bigger audiences, for example, exceeding 50,000 visitors on its Twitter page.

28. In 2021, the Fund launched a global social media campaign ([#moments2live4](https://twitter.com/moments2live4)) to raise awareness on the importance of investing in better road safety performance within low- and middle-income countries. It will be run from November to June each year during the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety (2021–2030), and it is driven by people, everyday road users. The campaign targets 24 most populous countries of the world – comprising some of the most affected countries by, as well as some of the strongest country champions for, the issue of financing road safety in low- and middle-income countries.

29. The Fund launched its new website in October 2021 (<https://roadsafetyfund.un.org/>). The website consolidates the identity of the Fund as an innovative solution to the world's enduring road safety crisis, showcases the results of the Fund and proposes concrete ways for diverse stakeholders to engage.

30. To commemorate the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, the Fund participated in the global campaign.

31. The UNRSF Platforms of Engagement are networks of thought leaders working together to shape mobility in a safer and more sustainable way, focused on the Sustainable Development Goals in combination with road safety. The objectives of the six platforms are to capitalize on proven solutions by finding, funding, and scaling up proven solutions to address the key road safety challenges identified by partner countries, while simultaneously addressing other development priorities. The goal will also be to increase project effectiveness, enhance collaboration and align international assistance.

32. Other partnerships with youth entrepreneurs, cities, multilateral development banks and civil society and others are presently being explored to develop best practices, share lessons learned and enhance our projects and planning.

VI. Next Steps

33. In 2022, the Fund will scale up fundraising through traditional as well as innovative resource-mobilization targeting governments, corporates and individuals. Strategic high-visibility and fundraising partnerships to support UNRSF resource mobilization will also be explored. The Fund Pledging Conference during the United Nations High Level Meeting on

Road Safety in New York, July 2022, will provide an important opportunity for UNRSF stakeholders to support the expansion of the Fund through concrete support.

34. The UNRSF secretariat will undertake broad consultations to design the Business Plan 2022–25, to guide Fund governance and operations, including in relations to projects, fundraising and communications. The next Call for Proposals will take place in 2022. Other key products under development are the Replenishment Paper of the Fund, Communications Plan and a Results and Impact Measurement Framework.

35. The UNRSF secretariat will continue to advance partnerships for interlinking road safety and other core development issues. It will work on increasing the visibility of the Fund through its global social media campaign, joint events with implementing partners and donors as well as beneficiaries.
