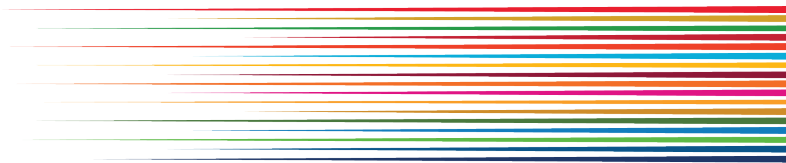


Road safety issues and policy interventions in the SPECA region

SPECA Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity

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Overview

The WHO (2018) highlighted that the 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.



Road Safety in SPECA region

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.

ESCAP activities on road safety (cont'd)

General Assembly adopted Resolution 74/299 adopted on 31 August 2020

- Proclaimed the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety (2021–2030), with a goal of reducing road traffic fatalities and injuries by at least 50 per cent from 2021 to 2030

WHO and the UN regional commissions, including ESCAP have developed a Global Plan for the Decade of Action, which was released in October 2021. ESCAP is developing a Regional Action Programme on Road safety.

Road safety is the key thematic area under the draft new Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development for Asia and the Pacific (2022-2026) to be adopted at the 4th Ministerial Conference on Transport in December this year.

ESCAP activities on road safety (cont'd)

New annex to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway network – annex II bis, entitled “Asian Highway design standards for road safety”

- Trigger a process towards improving country infrastructure standards to accommodate new facilities for better road safety.
- Will enter into force 12 months after two thirds of the parties to the Agreement have deposited an instrument of acceptance
- Hasn't entered into force as of now

ESCAP is one of the 11 participating UN organizations of the UN Road Safety Fund.

- The next Call for Proposals is expected to be launched by the UN Road Safety Fund secretariat in early 2022.

The Bangkok Declaration

The Bangkok Declaration on “City and Transport: Safety, Efficiency, and Sustainability”

- Adopted at a Regional Meeting organized by ESCAP in a virtual format on 9-10 June 2021.*
- Recognized the importance of introducing measures to implement a systematic approach to improve the safety of urban transport systems and, in turn, reduce the number of fatalities and casualties in crashes (“Safe System Approach”)

* Five SPECA member countries, namely Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan participated in the meeting.

Road Safety Observatory

The Asia-Pacific Road Safety Observatory:

- Regional forum on road safety data, policies and practices across Asia and the Pacific,
- 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 October 2021, five SPECA countries* became a member of the Observatory

The first meeting of the Observatory was organized on 21 and 22 April 2021 to discuss the challenge of collecting and collating road safety data for more informed policy making.

*Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan

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