



2ND GLOBAL STATUS REPORT ON ROAD SAFETY

BACKGROUND

Road traffic injuries are a leading cause of death, killing nearly **1.3 million people** annually. Approximately 90% of these deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. Unless action is taken urgently, the number of road traffic injuries and deaths is likely to continue to rise in most regions of the world as motorization increases. Indeed, if current trends continue unabated, road traffic injuries are predicted to rise from their current position as the ninth leading cause of death to become the fifth leading cause of death by 2030.

To begin to address this problem, in 2004 the World Health Organization and the World Bank jointly launched the World report on road traffic injury prevention. This World Report outlines the major risks for road traffic injuries, and recommends a number of interventions that countries can implement to improve their road safety situation. However, until recently the extent of the road safety situation around the world was unclear. In 2009 WHO published the first *Global status report on road safety*¹ for

which it had gathered information from Member States using a standardized method in order to ensure that data collected were comparable. In that way, it provided the first assessment of the road safety situation at the global level, and revealed the gaps that exist in national road safety efforts. The report highlighted the following facts:

- half all road traffic deaths are among “vulnerable road users” – motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians; and
- only 15% of countries have comprehensive legislation on the major risk factors to road safety.

The *Global status report* generated considerable attention at national and international levels and has stimulated action on improving road safety in a number of Member States.

In March 2010 the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 64/255² which proclaimed the period 2011–2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety. The goal of the Decade is to stabilize and then reduce the forecast level of road traffic fatalities around the world by increasing activities conducted at national, regional and global levels. The resolution requests WHO and the United Nations Regional Commissions to coordinate the monitoring of the impact of the Decade of Action, and proposes the use of further *Global status reports* as a tool

1 http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/road_safety_status/2009/en/index.html

2 http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/publications/road_traffic/UN_GA_resolution-54-255-en.pdf



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towards this end. To guide the development of national plans for the Decade of Action, the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration has facilitated the development of a *Global Plan for the Decade*³.

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In 2011 WHO will begin work on the second such report. The objectives of this new *Global status report* are:

- To indicate the gaps in road safety nationally and thereby stimulate road safety activities.
- To describe the road safety situation in all Member States and assess changes that have occurred since the publication of the first *Global status report*.
- To serve as a baseline for monitoring activities relating to the Decade of Action for Road Safety at the national and international levels.

As with the first *Global status report*, national level data will be collected through the administration of a questionnaire, which will include indicators such as:

- the existence of a lead agency for road safety;
- national strategies and targets relating to reductions in road traffic deaths and injuries;
- data on the magnitude of the road traffic injury problem;

- the existence of legislation and enforcement on a number of key risk factors – speed, drink-driving, seat-belt and helmet use; as well as
- the existence of services to address the post crash situation.

Data collection will begin in early 2011 and will be carried out in all WHO Member States that agree to participate, working through WHO Regional and Country offices. As for the first *Global status report*, in each country, a National Data Coordinator will be responsible for data collection. Data will be collected from national road safety experts from a range of different sectors (e.g. health, police, transport, etc) who will come together as a multi-sectoral consensus panel, and provide one set of data that best represents the road safety situation in their country. A Regional Data Coordinator will be in place in each of WHO's regional offices to supervise the project at a regional level.

With a number of Member States developing action plans for the Decade and committing to the implementation of concrete actions, this second *Global status report* will serve as the baseline for monitoring national and international progress made towards the achievement of the objectives of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020. The Report will be published in 2012.

³ http://www.who.int/roadsafety/decade_of_action/plan/en/index.html

For more information about this project please visit:

http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/road_safety_status/2011/en/index.html

or contact Tami Toroyan at toroyant@who.int

For more information on the Decade of Action for Road Safety please see:

http://www.who.int/roadsafety/decade_of_action/en/index.html



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