

Regional Workshop on Road Safety Data and Policies in Some Arab Countries

Radisson Blue Hotel, Verdun, Beirut Lebanon, 7- 8 March 2023

Within the Framework of the UNRSF Funded Project on
“Strengthening Evidence-Based Interventions for Road Safety in the Arab Region Through
Effective and Reliable Data Recording, Processing and Analysis”

Concept Note

I. Background:

Road traffic fatalities and serious injuries represent a global public health problem, especially in the Arab region, where the fatality rate due to road crashes is estimated at 18.9¹ fatalities per 100,000 people in 2016, more than the world average of 18.2 fatalities per 100,000 people and more than 3 times the average registered for the European region, which is 5.9² fatalities per 100,000 people.

To assist the Arab countries in improving or developing new evidence-based road safety policies, strategies and action plans, it is fundamental to collect reliable and accurate data to effectively identify problems, risk factors, and priority areas, and to set targets and monitor performance, beyond the traditional collection of data, which is limited in reflecting how responsibilities are shared between users involved in a traffic crash.

With support from the United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF), ESCWA is implementing a pilot project covering three Arab countries: Lebanon, Qatar, and Tunisia, on “*Strengthening evidence-based interventions for road safety in the Arab region through effective and reliable data recording, processing, and analysis.*”

¹ The rate is calculated for 16 Arab countries for which data is available in the global report of road safety for 2018, which are: Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates

² This rate is calculated for 27 EU countries for which data is available in the global report of road safety for 2018, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Eswatini, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.



The project aims to strengthen the technical capacities of Arab countries to establish effective and sustainable evidence-based policymaking for road safety through the following:

- a) The establishment of common and standardized processes, methods, and tools for efficient recording, processing, and analysis of disaggregated data on road crash fatalities and injuries in the Arab region.
- b) Providing adequate training, capacity building, and technical assistance to ESCWA Member States through the exchange of experiences and lessons learned between three pilot countries representing the geographic diversity of the region (Lebanon in the Middle East, Qatar in the Gulf, and Tunisia in North Africa).

This project is considered as the initial phase of the establishment of the future Arab Integrated Road Safety Observatory (AIRSO). The main objective of establishing AIRSO is to assist ESCWA member States in designing and implementing evidence-based policies, strategies, and action plans to achieve the global targets of the [UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030](#) and SDG 3.6 (by 2030, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents) by monitoring road crashes, contributing to international cooperation on road safety data and its analysis, enhancing cooperation and exchange of information, experiences, and methodologies, supporting comparisons between different countries and regions, and disseminating good practices.

Within the activities of the [6th Global Road Safety Week during May 17–23, 2021](#), ESCWA [organized a regional workshop on road safety in the Arab countries on May 18, 2021](#). The workshop presented and discussed the concept note for the establishment of AIRSO. Following the regional workshop, ESCWA sent an official letter to member States inviting them to indicate their level of commitment to the project. Member States were required to send a response letter by the end of July 2021 to ESCWA to express the following:

- Desire to become an AIRSO member
- Designation of two national coordinators, one for policy and one for data.
- Desire to host the observatory's technical secretariat (if applicable)

The concept note for the Observatory was presented and endorsed during the [22nd session of the ESCWA committee on transport and logistics](#), which took place in Cairo, Egypt, on December 6-7, 2021. In the same meeting, it was agreed that ESCWA would continue the activities for the establishment of the observatory if at least ten countries supported the initiative.



ESCWA organized an [online workshop on July 5, 2022](#), to present its initiative related to the establishment of AIRSO. Besides, it presented a brief on the survey conducted through the UNRSF project to capture the status of road safety management and documentation and analysis of road crashes in the Arab region.

Ten ESCWA member States replied, supporting the initiative and designating the two focal points³. In addition, Morocco expressed its willingness to host the secretariat of the Observatory.

II. Objectives of the regional workshop:

Within the framework of the UNRSF project on *"Strengthening Evidence-Based Interventions for Road Safety in the Arab Region Through Effective and Reliable Data Recording, Processing, and Analysis"*, ESCWA and the IsDB are cooperating to implement a *"Regional Workshop on Road Safety Data and Policies in Some Arab Countries"* in Beirut from 7 to 8 March 2023.

The aforesaid regional workshop will be implemented as a follow-up activity to [the 23rd Session of the ESCWA Committee on Transport and Logistics](#), which was held on October 20-21, 2022, in Alexandria, Egypt, in the premises of the [Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport](#), as part of the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Academy.

The main objectives of the regional workshop are to:

- Present and discuss the findings of the survey implemented by ESCWA in 2022 on the national road safety management and data systems in the Arab countries.
- Validate the identified gaps in the existing processes of collecting, processing, and analyzing police records on road crash fatalities and injuries in the Member States countries.
- Present and discuss the outputs of the virtual meeting conducted by ESCWA on December 8, 2022, with the three Arab countries: Lebanon, Qatar, and Tunisia, which are directly engaged in the project funded by the UNRSF on "Strengthening evidence-based interventions for road safety in the Arab region through effective and reliable data recording, processing, and analysis."

³ Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the State of Palestine, Qatar, Somalia, and the Syrian Arab Republic.



- Present, discuss, and agree on the proposed elements of the optimal unified template for road crash recording that will be suggested as a base for the development of the AIRSO project.

III. Deliverables of the workshop:

- Participants' recommendations will be addressed to improve the proposed harmonized digital template for reporting information related to road traffic crashes.
- ESCWA and the IsDB will issue a report on how to improve the recording, processing, and analysis of road traffic crashes data to develop and implement effective evidence-based policies, strategies, and action plans to improve road safety in the Arab countries.

IV. Participants:

National focal points for road safety policies and national focal points for road safety data from the ten ESCWA member states that support the AIRSO project.

V. Venue:

The regional workshop will take place at the Radisson Blue Hotel , Dune Center, Verdun, Beirut, Lebanon,

For Booking at UN Rate, please contact reservation department, Email:

reservations.verdun@radissonblu.com, copying Mr. Fouad Ghorra ghorraf@un.org

VI. Contact Persons:

<p>Dr. Yarob Badr Regional Advisor on transport and Logistics. Shared Economic Prosperity Cluster, ESCWA Tel: 9611978429 Email: badr3@un.org</p>	<p>Mr. Atiq Ahmed Lead Global Transport Specialist Economic and Social Infrastructure Department (ESID) General Directorate for Global Practices & Partnerships (GPP) Islamic Development Bank Email: atiqahmad@isdb.org</p>
<p><u>For meeting logistic issues:</u> Mr. Fouad Ghorra Research Assistant Shared Economic Prosperity Cluster, ESCWA Tel: 9611978432 Email: ghorraf@un.org</p>	<p><u>For meeting agenda items and presentations</u> Ms. Ghina Al Tahesh Research Assistant on Road Safety Shared Economic Prosperity Cluster, ESCWA Email: taheshghina@gmail.com</p>

