The UK government has announced a new aid funding package of £10.6 million ($14 million equivalent) for the Global Road Safety Facility (GRSF) over the next three years. The resources funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) using the UK’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget will enable the launching of the third phase of the Facility’s Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF).

The agreement, signed on October 9, expands and extends the UK government’s financial support to the GRSF. The funds will be provided in equal parts by the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID)—a key partner of the GRSF since 2013—and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), which is joining in as a new donor.

DFID’s Secretary of State, the Right Hon. Penny Mordaunt MP said:

“When we think about the things that are the biggest killers in the world, we think about disease, conflict or famine. But road traffic accidents are the biggest killer of young adults globally and 90% of these deaths are in low- and middle-income countries.”
Road deaths impact some of the poorest communities the hardest. Britain is determined to use its expertise and support to save lives and lead the way on road safety.”

Professor Chris Whitty, Head of NIHR and Chief Scientific Adviser for the Department of Health and Social Care stated that: “Road safety is a major global health challenge, and a significant cause of death in low- and middle-income countries. Robust research data is needed to develop new policies and interventions which will reduce the number of deaths and injuries due to road traffic accidents. I am pleased that the National Institute for Health Research is working with the Global Road Safety Facility to address this critical and under-funded area and improve global health outcomes.”

Under the MDTF Phase 3, the GRSF will scale up its research and capacity building programs to help low-income countries tackle the multiple aspects of the road safety challenge, including management capacity, infrastructure safety, vehicle safety, data collection, traffic laws enforcement, behavior change, and post-crash care.

According to the Senior Director of World Bank Transport & Digital Development Global Practice, Guangzhe Chen, “The strong support of the NIHR as a new donor, matching DFID’s continuing financial support for the GRSF, will make a real difference to road safety in low-income countries. On average, each dollar of GRSF grant funding leverages over $40 in road safety expenditures, so this joint funding will help prevent the loss of many thousands of lives and debilitating injuries.”

For more on GRSF’s work, please visit
www.worldbank.org/grsf
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GRSF
Global Road Safety Facility