Safe mobility is critical to achieving growth in the 21st century. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have prioritized transport solutions and investments towards helping countries achieve a safer, cleaner and affordable transport system for growth. This includes a focus on inclusiveness, and ensuring vulnerable users of road transport systems are protected. Road safety, a key indicator of two SDG goals (3.0 and 11.0) is now a recognized global development priority. Backed by the goals of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, two Global Ministerial Meetings, and increased action by the Multi-lateral Development Banks, the fight is on to save lives as global road crashes represent a bigger global burden of disease than malaria, tuberculosis and even HIV/AIDS in specific countries.

Global road deaths remain at an unacceptably high of 1.25 million deaths per year. Significant actions are needed to half this figure and save more than 600,000 lives a year, as demanded by the SDG target for 2020.\(^1\) The share of global road deaths in Low Income Countries (LICs) has increased from 12% to 16% during the 2010 to 2013 period, with a road death risk of 24.1 deaths per 100,000 population in 2013. The worsening of the situation in LICs is a result of increasing levels of motorization, institutions, systems, and policy frameworks.

Responding to this crises (with 90% of global road deaths happening in developing countries), the World Bank established and hosts the Global Road Safety Facility (GRSF), a global partnership and funding platform launched in 2006. The GRSF is scaling up its work program to take on increasing challenges in line with country and partner priorities for safety planning, interventions, and research.

Road crashes are the only injury in the top ten causes of deaths globally and the number one killer of young people worldwide. The GRSF, as the most experienced development bank global road safety fund, ensures donor funding catalyzes action for saving lives and sustained results.

GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY FACILITY RESULTS

The Global Road Safety Facility is a partnership and funding platform assisting the global road safety agenda by implementing road safety reforms, including through technical assistance, knowledge products, and a comprehensive leveraging of road safety infrastructure financing. Launched in 2006, it has initiated and carried out a large range of road safety projects in more than 35 devel-

---

\(^1\) Goal 3.6: “By [2020] halve global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.” Goal applies over the 2010 baseline estimate.
opining countries in all world regions. In 2016 GRSF grant funds of US$3.74 million mobilized support around $411 million in road safety investments. GRSF has supported the development of major road safety assessment tools such as iRAP and it has joined hands with the private sector, for example with the Africa Road Safety Corridor Initiative. The GRSF’s twinning partnership with the OECD’s IRTAD data group is a leading effort to bring crash reporting solutions to LMICs.

GRSF WORK PROGRAM

The GRSF work program combines knowledge and operational aspects most conducive for making progress in road safety improvements.

- **Investing in Building Safety Management:** As the largest provider of development finance for transport globally with an active transport portfolio of $43.1 billion with 219 projects (as of May, 2017), the World Bank’s Transport and ICT Global Practice is the natural host of the GRSF as a global donor and partnership platform. However, countries are frequently failing to invest early enough to avert death and injury as they build their road networks. The GRSF focuses its efforts on implementing its Road Safety Management Capacity Review which lays out a comprehensive organizational and investment strategy for road safety. The GRSF also invests in the infrastructure safety of the roads by building client capacity to use the latest road safety rating and audit tools.

- **Interventions for Safer Outcomes:** The GRSF is investing in helping countries establish vehicle inspection stations to ensure stronger occupant protection through regulations. On the road network and in urban centers, the GRSF invests in working with city administrations on the planning and design of safety improvements and through establishing and enforcing speed control initiatives.

- **Research for Results:** Progress on road safety is frequently hindered by ignorance about the social and economic costs of road crashes, and hesitance to prioritize reforms in this area. Moreover, poor data collection of road crashes at the local level hinders effective counter-measures. The GRSF is working to uncover the economic costs of road safety in order to inform decision-making. The GRSF has worked with the Global Burden of Disease team to account for the global effects of road crash death and disability. The GRSF is continuing investment in Road Safety Observatories at the country and regional levels, having pioneered the first of these observatories in coordination with IRTAD.

GRSF OPERATING PRINCIPLES

The GRSF brings together partners for road safety results, working with the Office of the UN Special Envoy for Road Safety to support country and regional missions, financing the WHO to coordinate support and investment in post crash care and road safety legislation, builds capacity for the Multi-lateral Development Banks through providing training and knowledge products, and working with civil society by supporting the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety.

The World Bank and GRSF is continuously seeking inputs from clients, partners, and donors on strategic direction and priority topics to be covered by the GRSF. Potential donors are encouraged to consider a contribution to the GRSF Multi-donor Trust Fund (MDTF). Donors are involved in the GRSF through a seat at the GRSF Executive Board.

For more information on this topic:
Soames Job Global Lead Road Safety, World Bank, and Head GRSF
sjob@worldbank.org
Marc Shotten Program Manager, GRSF
mshotten@worldbank.org
Dipan Bose Program Manager for Bloomberg Initiative for Global Road Safety, GRSF
dbose@worldbank.org

Global Road Safety Facility
www.worldbank.org/grsf