

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Remote informal
meeting of members
of the Executive Committee
Geneva, 20 May 2020

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Informal document No. **2020/24**

Status of the United Nations Road Safety Fund – May 2020

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Introduction

Established in 2018, the United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF) provides an unprecedented opportunity to ensure coordinated and impactful investments in road safety – and to do so with the UN partners, governments, multilateral development banks, civil society, academia and the private sector. It aims to systematically identify and strengthen missing elements of countries' national road safety systems to bring about an immediate and tangible decline in the number of fatalities and injuries on the road. The Fund's Global Framework Plan of Action for Road Safety offers the vision, targets, common plan and approach to assist countries through the implementation of an effective road safety management system.

The Fund's unique value lies in the diverse and interconnected strengths and expertise of its 11 participating UN organizations to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals on health, cities and infrastructure, where road safety plays an important role. It has already secured US\$ 20 million in pledges from 12 donors from both the public and private sector.

Projects

The Fund funded five projects totaling US\$ 940,928 that were approved under the pilot call for proposals in 2018. These projects are currently being implemented in eight countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Senegal and South Africa and focus on strengthening safe street designs, speed management, legal frameworks for road safety, collection of road traffic fatality data, and child-responsive urban planning.

A total of 73 applications were received for the 2019 Call for Proposals, requesting funding support across over 52 countries. US\$ 62.5 million would be needed to finance all these projects. The Fund Steering Committee met on Friday, 14 February, to consider eligible proposals and approved 10 projects with a total budget of US\$ 3.97 million.

The Fund is now financing 15 projects worth almost US\$ 5 million, that cover four regions, and are implemented by nine UN organizations.

Looking ahead

The Third Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety was held in Stockholm, Sweden, on 19-20 February 2020. This provided a critical opportunity for renewed commitment by Governments, civil society and the private sector to engage and invest in road safety as the first Decade of Action for Road Safety arrives at an end in 2020.

At the heels of the Conference, the COVID-19 pandemic has become a major crisis that has affected almost all corners of the globe and most spheres of life. Supporting the most vulnerable under the COVID-19 pandemic will be crucial in these next months and UNRSF is already working with its partners in low- and middle-income countries to adapt strategies and projects on road safety to the post-pandemic context and to continue to protect lives when mobility resumes.

Within this overall context, there will be two main inter-linked priorities for the Fund in 2020 and beyond. The first is fundraising. The UNRSF was launched with an ambition to transform the response to the road safety challenge of our times. Already, a broad and diverse group of donors has demonstrated its confidence in the mission and vision of the Fund. The UNRSF will continue to strengthen its fundraising activities, supported by the members of the Advisory Board and Steering Committee.

The second priority relates to the UNRSF programme portfolio. The Fund will need to respond to huge demand for its resources by expanding its geographical and programmatic footprint, including through the upcoming 2020 Call for Proposals expected to be launched the last quarter of 2020. Another interlinked goal will be to ensure that the Fund's 15 projects are generating immediate and tangible impact in line with the directions of the Fund's governing bodies.

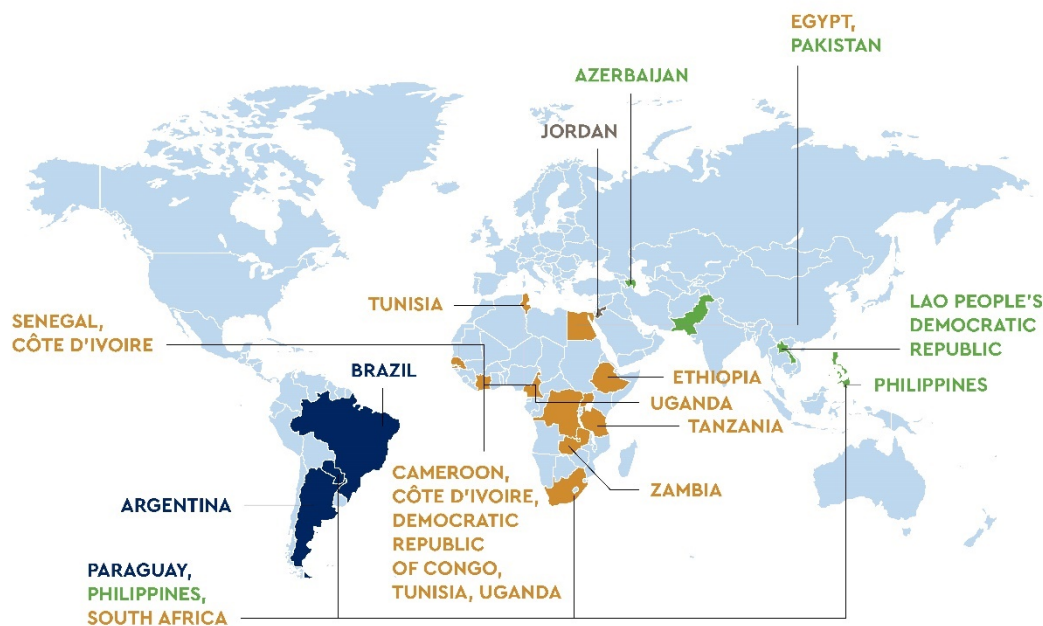


Figure 1: Visual representation of the UNRSF projects approved under the pilot and 2019 calls for proposals

For more information:

The secretariat of the Fund is hosted in Geneva by the UNECE. Contact the UNRSF secretariat at: unrsf_secretariat@un.org

Read more about the Fund on its webpage: www.unece.org/unrsf