

Fourth United Nations Partnership Meeting for Road Safety

DPO Road Safety Initiatives

2 November 2020

DPO remains strongly focused on efforts aimed at reducing fatalities and injuries due to road accidents within its missions and by working with host governments on national and local campaigns to improve road safety. The DPO Office of Military Affairs undertook an extensive analysis of road traffic accidents recorded across peacekeeping missions from 2017 through 2019 to identify root causes of traffic accidents and develop and implement recommendations to enhance road safety. The findings of the report were shared with all peacekeeping missions. Key recommendations included:

1. Missions appoint independent boards to investigate Road Traffic Accidents
2. Troop contributing countries (TCCs) ensure that all drivers are well trained and experienced
3. All TCC drivers must be made aware of UN road safety management, SOPs and directives issued by missions
4. Missions adhere to strict examination procedures when issuing UN driving permits (licenses) for all UN personnel
5. All TCC owned and UN vehicles undergo periodic road worthy inspections to be conducted by independent technical team with issuance of certificate
6. Mission specific defensive driver training and road safety awareness programs conducted for arriving mission personnel
7. Military police to be utilized effectively to ensure all UN drivers adhere to road safety discipline.

The DPO Military Advisor and Deputy Military Advisor communicate frequently with peacekeeping missions to reinforce road safety measures.

As a result of these measures no peacekeepers died due to road traffic accidents, fatalities of civilians reduced by 81%, and 82 peacekeepers were injured during the period October 2018 to September 2019.

UN POLICE (UNPOL) ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVES WITHIN MISSIONS

United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)

Background

UNISFA Police conducted a massive awareness Road Safety awareness campaign in Amiet Common Market which is an economic hub for Abyei in preparation of the festive season and the New Year of 2020. The main campaign message was “Think Safety First” which was meant to reduce deaths and injuries in sync with the one of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development to halve the number of global deaths and injuries from accident by 2020.

The participants of the campaign were drivers, motorcycle riders, communities and Community Policing Committees (CPC) / Joint Policing Committees (JPC) traffic officers. Issues were discussed on the cause, effects, and measures to be taken to reduce the number of traffic accidents.

Objectives of the Road safety Initiatives

Capacity Building

- Mentoring CPC on how to perform roadblock / check point duties
- Checking road users' behavior
- Drunk driving and fastening of seat belts
- Sensitize motorist to defensive driving techniques and road safety measures.
- To reduce risk of injury that resulted temporary or permanent disability and death to children and innocent citizens who are among the road users.
- Make the motorist to abide or adhere to traffic rules and regulation

Management Practice

- Raise awareness campaigns (use of posters fliers)
- Dangers of overloading
- How to identify hazardous and critical road location (e.g. hot spots, animal and bad road surface)
- Monitoring compliance through CPC check points
- Aggressive driving
- Fatigue driver to take rest
- To sensitize truck drivers and other road users on the need of observing best use of road and defense drive to avoid accidents.

UNPOL key messaging on road safety initiatives

- The UNISFA police informed the participants that the "Think Safety First" mantra is spreading through the Abyei Box to reduce road carnages.
- UNISFA UNPOL warned both vehicular and human traffic against speeding, overloading, driving under the influence of alcohol, driving whilst using cellphones, failure to observe the road conditions and checking the road before crossing, driving cattle on the roads, driving without driving permit, driving under legal age, not respecting other road users like pedestrians and animals and remaining stationary on the middle of the road [Dangerous Parking] as the most contributory factors to road accidents.
- UNPOL wound up its message by informing the participants that Safety is everyone's responsibility and implored every road user to think safety first before using the road. All drivers, motorists and pedestrians should Follow traffic rules and regulations, Adhere to speed limits.

Outputs and outcomes

Eight campaigns that were successfully conducted by UNISFA UNPOL, in hot sport areas like high populated and markets within area of responsibility has positively reduced the number of accidents within.

United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Background

UNMISS UNPOL Section does involve the local counterpart (SSNPS) to join other mission stakeholders during the Annual Road Safety Awareness Campaign, to inform, educate and sensitize all categories of Mission Staff members (Military, Police, National and International including Troop contingents) about road or Traffic Safety as well as driving standards/discipline expected of UN staff to reduce accidents throughout the mission area and outside. It is intended for all staff in the mission hence, observed in same manner in all states.

Further, South Sudan National Police Service (SSNPS) Traffic Police have been engaged specifically in the Technical assistance and Advice (TAA) programs through workshops on human rights of road users and other standards.

With the ongoing change in mission posture, it is within plans to strengthen the engagement with SSNPS on road safety matters.

The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)

Background

MONUSCO Police Component put special emphasis and priority on road safety measures for ensuring safety of the peacekeepers and the community they serve. Action in this regard has two main streams: the first is to educate, monitor and evaluate driving patterns and road uses of our both IPO and FPU colleagues; secondly, MONUSCO does engage with host-State police and the citizens in general to raise awareness on safe use of roads, adherence and proper enforcement of traffic rules. These measures are based on the Police Commissioner's Directive which serves as the guiding document in the field. MONUSCO conducted road safety measures for the City of Bukavu under the theme of "Respect for Traffic Rules for Smooth and Accident-Free Traffic Movement in Bukavu City"

Police Commissioner's directive on road safety measures

The Police Commissioner issued a directive on road safety for 2020 aimed to provide steps to be taken by all UNPOL to reduce human casualties, financial and operational costs of the road accidents to the Mission.

Participation

Participants in the road safety awareness were but not limited to:

- Representatives of civil society
- Representatives of Drivers Association of Congo
- Motorcycle Taxi Association
- Representative of provincial minister of transport and communication
- Representative of the Societe Nationale de Prevention Routiniere (National Road Prevention Society).

Expected outcomes

The initiative was meant to achieve the following expected outcomes that are yet to be measured:

- Essential notions of the traffic rules are popularized and mastered by the population
- Good and saving attitudes are internalized
- Users know the priority of vehicles and give way to them
- Ethics of Road Traffic Police (PCR) officers are mastered and applied
- The PCR officers ensure the fluidity of road traffic and safety of people on the public roads in accordance with notional and internal standards
- The unusual incivility of road users is considerably reduced
- Cases of road traffic accidents are considerably reduced in the city of Bukavu.

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)

In MINUSMA, the sensitization is given to all personnel of the mission on road safety, as well as the strict application of rules regarding driving tests, vehicle maintenance and speed limits, and backed by electronic control/surveillance (CARLOG) are very important factors that contribute to road safety in the mission's Area of Responsibility (AOR)

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)

MINUSCA's strategy on the road safety takes the following actions:

- The Head of Police Component (HoPC) issues directives to all UNPOL components on road safety, requesting that all UNPOL officers should obey the local rules as well as United Nations rules; to drive carefully and defensively; to check and maintain their vehicles properly revised and report all deficiencies to the concerned office, to drive only in possession of a driving license provided by United Nations; respect speed limits;
- UNPOL before the COVID-19 pandemic organized three training and awareness sessions on the benefit of UNPOL officers on the road accidents.
- Broadcasts are frequently issued to sensitize UNPOL on road accidents and the importance to adopt preventive measures to avoid accidents;
- Organization of several UNPOL Senior Leadership Team meetings on road safety which are led by the HOPC;
- Regular training and awareness sessions are organized for the benefit of UNPOLs on road accidents;
- Change in the monitoring of accidents and in the sanctioning strategy for road accidents. In the event of DMS sanction following a road accident targeting a UNPOL, the Police Component also applies its sanction rate which may be equal to or more severe than that imposed by the DMS, according to the fault committed;
- The HoPC, when necessary, provide comments on road safety in the Police Assessment and Evaluation Reports (PAER) reports of Formed Police Units (FPUs);

- The HoPC during town halls meetings always took the opportunity to remember UNPOL staff on the road safety measures to be followed to reduce the number of accidents and incidents;
- The HoPC shared verbal instructions for a stronger involvement of all UNPOL chiefs of different pillars and sections on the road safety measures.

United Nations–African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID)

Background

UNAMID Police component collaborates with UNAMID transport in a Whole-of-Mission approach for fleet management and Road Safety Campaign initiatives driven by United Nations policies and local experiences of both UNAMIDPOL and local driving culture in the area of responsibility in 2008. UNAMID organized an Annual Road Safety Campaign programme which runs from about October to December each year. The last Road Safety Campaign held by UNAMID was from 25 November to 01 December 2018. The campaign planners were transport section, UNPOL, UNDSS, military, police, medical section, military staff officers, child protection section and information technology section. This is a part of mission leadership contribution to ensure compliance into safety of UNAMID personnel against all forms of harm resulting from vehicular and traffic related occurrences.

UNAMIDPOL issued PC's directive and administrative instructions to develop and implement community- and mission -based interventions designed to create awareness and contribution to the reduction of traffic related offences, deaths, and injuries. Road Safety awareness campaign in UNAMID is characterized by main campaign message on billboards, banners, walkathon marchpast, media broadcast public announcement and mission wide log-on and screen saver RS messaging., town hall meetings, drama and video shows. UNAMID POL "Road safety campaign" is meant to create awareness on for road users, and compliance host state national policies and UNAMID Policies in the reduction of accidents.

The participants of the campaign were police component Individually deployed Police Officers (IPOs), international & national staff, Transport officers & military traffic officers. Issues discussed were on measures to be taken to reduce the number of traffic accidents. Video shows involving drug and substance abuse, sexual harassment and other forms of distractions where showcased in related road accidents and fatalities.

Objectives of the Road safety Campaign Initiatives

Capacity Building

- Introduction / general discussion meets all staff members in a town hall.
- General security and safety in the field environment, hostage and difficult terrain situations.
- How to lower your driving risks
- Avoid alcohol and other drugs, do not drink and drive.
- Unsafe behaviors can cause serious accidents, use of safety belts, Road safety video shows,
- Awareness Seminar and school drama presentations in Darfur. Radio presentations and mission wide log-on Screen Saver RS Message.
- Spot checks and security coordinated patrols.

Management practice

- Issuance of Police Commissioner's directives and Administrative instructions on
 - Non-smoking in the UNAMID vehicles, officers, accommodations and aircraft
 - Official business and travel on duty
 - Administrative instruction for compliance on convoy parking procedures.
- Raise awareness campaigns (use of posters fliers, banners, dangers of overloading)
- How to identify hazardous and critical road location (e.g. hot spots, animal and /or pedestrian crossing, bad weather and Darfur road surface/terrain)
- Monitoring compliance through CPC check points
- Sensitization activities for truck drivers, Taxi cabs and other road users on the need of observing best use of road and defense drive to avoid accidents and spread of COVID- 19

UNPOL key messaging on road safety initiatives

- UNAMID police in coordination with UNAMID Transport section informs participants on "the road safety campaign" communicated through UNAMID broadcast, outlook, and public announcement to reduce road traffic accidents.
- The campaign warned both vehicular traffic against over speeding, overloading, driving whilst using cellphones, failure to observe the road traffic conditions and checking the road before crossing, animal crossings & terrain related obstacles as leading factors to road accidents.

Outputs and outcomes

UNAMID transport section successfully conducted road safety campaigns in coordination with other sections which created massive awareness that reduced the number of accidents within Darfur, Sudan. The following were significant outcomes:

- As part of our continuous effort to create awareness of road threats and the vulnerability of road users as well as promote attitude change and beliefs to a more positive safety approach, UNAMID promoted Road Safety Awareness Activities under the theme "Road Safety starts with us".
- Investigation of UNAMID vehicle accidents shows that the human factor plays an important role in the occurrence of most accidents. The unroadworthy geographic conditions, lack of road signs, the complex collaboration with the local traffic police, and the increasing number of vehicles on Darfur roads expose UN personnel, local population pedestrians and property to great danger.
- The aim is to show respect for and understanding of the Sudanese point of view in Darfur regarding safe vehicular operations. The key aspects to be strengthened are that driving UNAMID vehicles is a privilege, not a right, and, that road safety is everybody's responsibility.
- Road safety awareness efforts of UNAMID as a whole, in particular Military Police, UN Police, Security and Transport, included multiple activities such as random road safety checkpoints;

driver enhancement seminars for all UNAMID staff; road safety drama presentation for the local community; radio announcements for safety,

- The use of Road Safety Campaigns as a preventative strategy was introduced in UNAMID in December of 2008. One year after the impact of the first campaign, the size of the fleet increased in approximately 138%, while the number of accidents in the mission area dropped to less than half of the previous year.
- Since then, an increase in awareness and a more positive approach is seen towards road and traffic safety, especially in reducing the average speed of UNAMID drivers while monitoring and reporting all UNAMID traffic accidents and violations.
- The involvement of the Government of Sudan (GoS) Traffic Police in most Road safety campaigns were a great achievement to UNAMID, as it represented yet in small scale, the formal cooperation between UNAMID and the local population. After discussions with GoS Head of Traffic, UNAMID was able to identify the local needs for traffic awareness and safety as a whole.
- Priorities are safety of all road users and the preservation of life and property including pedestrians, drivers, animal drawn vehicles/carts, animals crossing, other vehicles and property. for drivers in both UNAMID and host community, and people are getting aware of road safety benefits.
- UNAMID aim towards: 1) Reduce severity of accidents by reducing speed; 2) Reduce number of accident by improving road awareness and our driving reputation; 3) Promote behavioral change by enforcing the use of seatbelts and abolishing the use of mobile phones while driving; 4) Sensitization of all road users including the local community on the importance of road safety. 5) Contribute to capacity building by promoting prevention and road safety practices in coordination with local community.