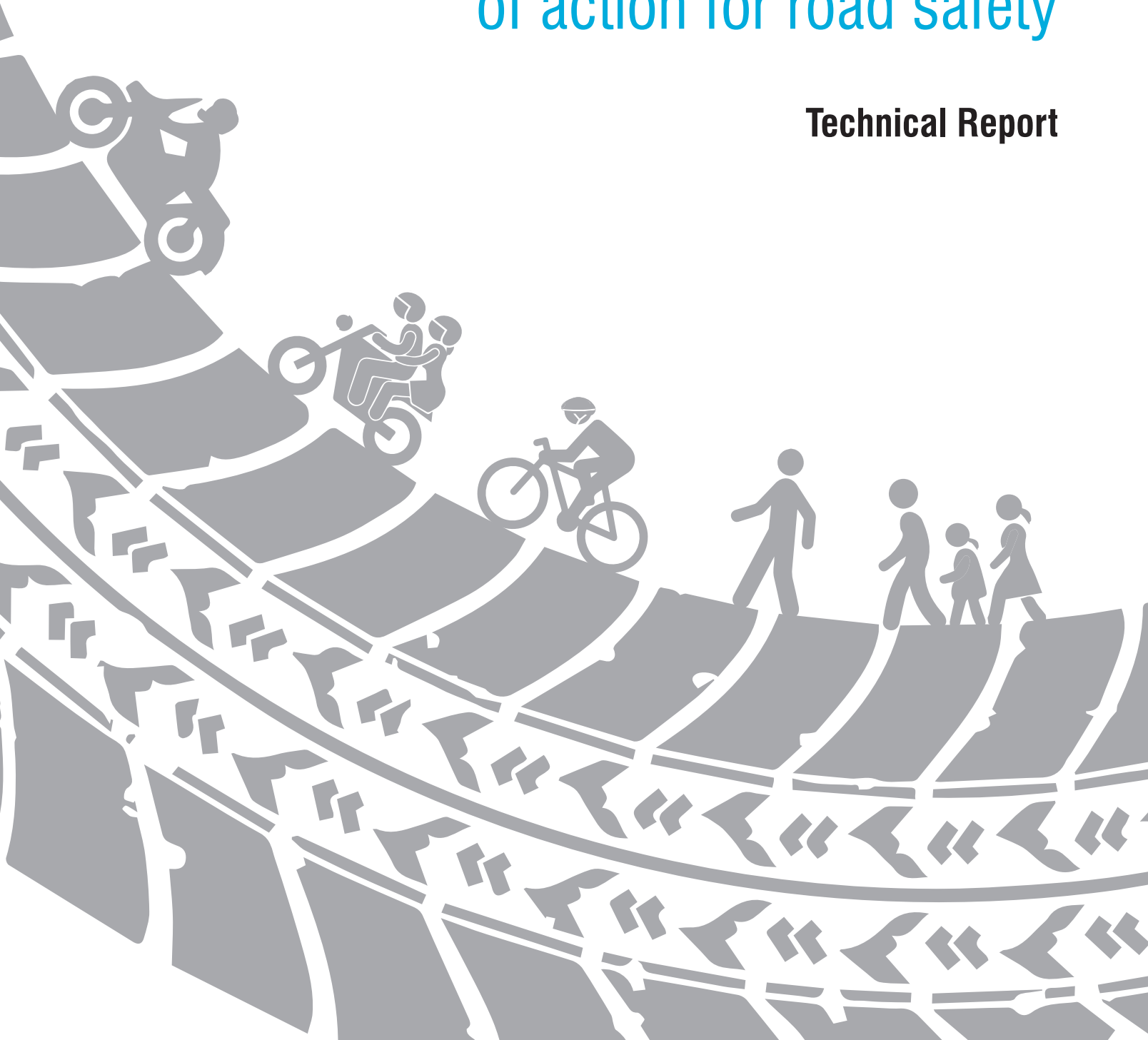


Accelerating actions for implementation of decade of action for road safety

Technical Report



Accelerating action for implementation of the Decade of Action for Road Safety

Technical report

Accelerating action for implementation of the Decade of Action for Road Safety: Technical report.

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Contents

Foreword	v
Executive Summary	vii
1. Introduction.....	1
2. Burden and trends.....	2
2.1 Global trends.....	2
2.2 Trends in the WHO SEA Region.....	4
3. Global movements	9
3.1 The Decade of Action for Road Safety.....	9
3.2 Sustainable Development Goals.....	9
3.3 Other declarations and resolutions	10
4. Guiding principles.....	11
4.1 Vision Zero and the Safe Systems approach.....	11
4.2 Save LIVES.....	12
5. International and regional action	14
5.1 Partnerships.....	14
5.2 Investments in road safety	15
6. Available tools.....	18
6.1 Resolutions	18
6.2 Conventions and regulations.....	18
6.3 Good practice guides.....	19
7. Global and regional initiatives.....	20
7.1 Global initiatives	20
7.2 Regional initiatives.....	20
7.3 Country initiatives.....	21
8. Monitoring and evaluation.....	22
9. Road safety challenges and solutions with a focus on VRUs	23
10. Conclusions	25
11. References.....	26
Appendix A: Six case studies on road safety activities in the SEA Region.....	27
Appendix B: Summary of proposed voluntary global targets and their associated indicators.....	31



Foreword



Road traffic injuries kill approximately 316 000 people each year in the WHO South-East Asia Region and are the leading cause of death among young people aged between 15 and 29 years. Pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists – the so-called vulnerable road users – make up 50% of deaths on the road in the Region. In some countries of the WHO South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions, two- and three-wheelers alone can account for up to 70% of deaths. Most vehicles on the road in some countries of these regions are two- and three-wheelers. A prominent focus on vulnerable road users is required to stem fatalities that are clearly avoidable. The safety of these groups must be addressed vigorously if a reduction in the number of deaths is to be achieved.

Road traffic crashes also rob families of their young males as they are the leading cause of death among those aged 15–29 years. They cost countries from 3% to 5% of their gross domestic product. But the true “costs” are greater than just those that can be quantified in dollar terms. Road traffic injuries have significant human cost in terms of medical treatment and rehabilitation, long-term care, loss of employment, material damage, etc. Road traffic crashes and injuries leave some individuals with significant psychological symptoms – such as post-traumatic stress disorder and depression – in addition to many physical sequelae some of which may be permanent, such as loss of a limb or head injury.

Road safety relates to many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG Target 3.6 aims to reduce road traffic accident mortality by half globally by 2020. SDG Target 11.2 endeavours to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all by 2030. These SDGs align well with the UN proclamation declaring the decade 2011–2020 as the Decade for Action for Road Safety.

This ministerial-level meeting in the South-East Asia Region is an important step to accelerate action on the “five pillars” of the Decade of Action while keeping the vulnerable road users in particular focus. It seeks to promote multisectoral participation that will enhance collaboration both within and among relevant ministries, as well as provide the opportunity for appropriate collaboration among UN agencies and other international and regional organizations involved in road safety to scale up action in the region. This meeting also provides a platform to consider and review the activities needed to reach the SDG targets on road safety.

I take this opportunity to thank all those who are working to reduce road traffic injuries in the WHO South-East Asia Region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Khetrpal'.

Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh
Regional Director
WHO South-East Asia



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