



## Webinar Main Takeaways: Introducing Key Road Safety Reports for 2025

On May 27, 2025, the Africa Transport Policy Program (SSATP), in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and the George Institute for Public Health, hosted a pivotal webinar titled *Introducing Key Road Safety Reports for 2025*. "The event brought together 138 participants from 68 countries, including 39 African countries, to discuss the urgent need to improve road safety, with a focus on protecting the most vulnerable—children and adolescents.

The event served as a platform for unveiling two major reports:

- 1) [Protecting Young Lives - Global Status Report on Child and Adolescent Road Safety](#), which presents key findings and data points underscoring the urgent need for actions aimed at protecting young road users.
- 2) The [Africa Status Report on Road Safety 2025](#), which provides decision-makers with a snapshot of road safety conditions across the continent, including governance frameworks, regulations, standards, legislation, and systems in place aimed at improving road safety outcomes.

The webinar offered participants valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities for improving road safety for young people—both globally and across Africa. Moderated by Binta Sako, Technical Officer in the Violence, Injuries, and Disabilities Unit at WHO's Africa Regional Office, the session opened with remarks by Mustapha Benmaamar, SSATP manager. The event featured presentations of the two flagship reports and a panel discussion with leading experts and practitioners. The discussion underscored the alarming reality that road traffic crashes are the leading cause of death among children and adolescents worldwide. Panelists emphasized that although Africa has a relatively small share of the global vehicle fleet, it suffers a disproportionately high burden of road traffic fatalities—highlighting the urgent need for targeted, evidence-based interventions and data-driven strategies.

## **Global Child Road Safety Report**

Dr. Prasanthi Atwood, Senior Research Associate at The George Institute for Global Health, presented the *Protecting Young Lives* report. She emphasized the stark disparities in road traffic mortality between high- and low-income countries and called for age-specific interventions, stronger data systems, and policy alignment to improve outcomes for children and adolescents worldwide.

## **Africa's Road Safety Challenges**

Marisela Ponce de Leon, SSATP Road Safety Pillar Lead, presented the *Africa Status Report*, revealing that Africa accounts for 24% of global road deaths. She highlighted that vulnerable road users make up the majority of fatalities, with pedestrians accounting for 30.9% of deaths. The report identified major challenges including poor data collection, inconsistent reporting, weak enforcement of vehicle safety regulations, and limited promotion of alternative forms of transport—less than a third of African countries implement national strategies to promote walking and cycling. Furthermore, only 4 of the 51 participating countries have laws that explicitly prioritize the safety and mobility needs of all road users. Fewer than half have legislation that aligns with international best practices for at least one key risk factor. Notably, motorcycle helmet laws meet global standards in just 8 countries, and only one country has legislation that meets best practice criteria for child restraints. In light of these gaps, Marisela emphasized the need for stronger leadership and coordinated action to strengthen road safety systems across the continent.

## **Reflections and Way Forward**

The expert panel included Dr. Maria Segui (Lead, WHO Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023), Chiara Retis (Team Lead of the Violence, Injuries, Disabilities Unit at the WHO Regional Office for Africa), and Lojaina Abdelmawla (Road Safety Advocate, Global Youth Coalition for Road Safety). They reflected on how these reports can inform targeted policy reforms and drive results on the ground. The panel emphasized the importance of equity, data-driven planning, inclusive policies, and empowering youth to help co-create safer mobility systems. Participants also discussed the need for sustainable financing and integrating road safety into broader transport and development planning.

The webinar concluded with closing remarks from Joanne Vincenten, UNICEF's Global Lead for Child and Adolescent Unintentional Injury Prevention, who urged stakeholders to adopt a system-wide approach and use the insights from these reports as catalysts for policy action that prioritizes the safety of young and vulnerable road users.

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As countries work toward achieving global road safety targets, the findings of the reports presented during the webinar reinforce the critical role of data, policy coherence, and inclusive design in shaping safer transport systems. Sustained collaboration among all stakeholders—including governments, development partners, civil society, and youth leaders—will be essential to translating these insights into concrete action. With renewed commitment and shared accountability, we can drive meaningful progress toward safer, more equitable, and sustainable mobility for all.