

## Note on the Status of Road Safety Priorities in the Arab Region

Prepared for the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the UNRSTF Advisory Board on 3 September 2019

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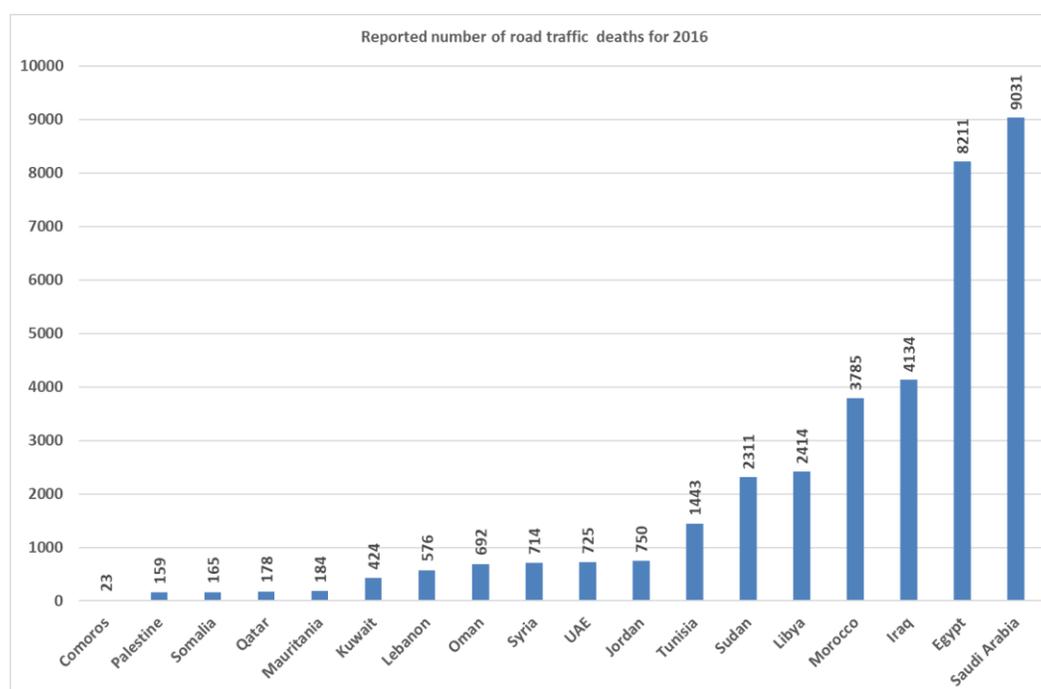
In consultation with Dr. Ramzi Salamé, Representative of ESCWA Region Member States

Updated version, Beirut, 30 August 2019

### I- Status of road safety in the Arab region:

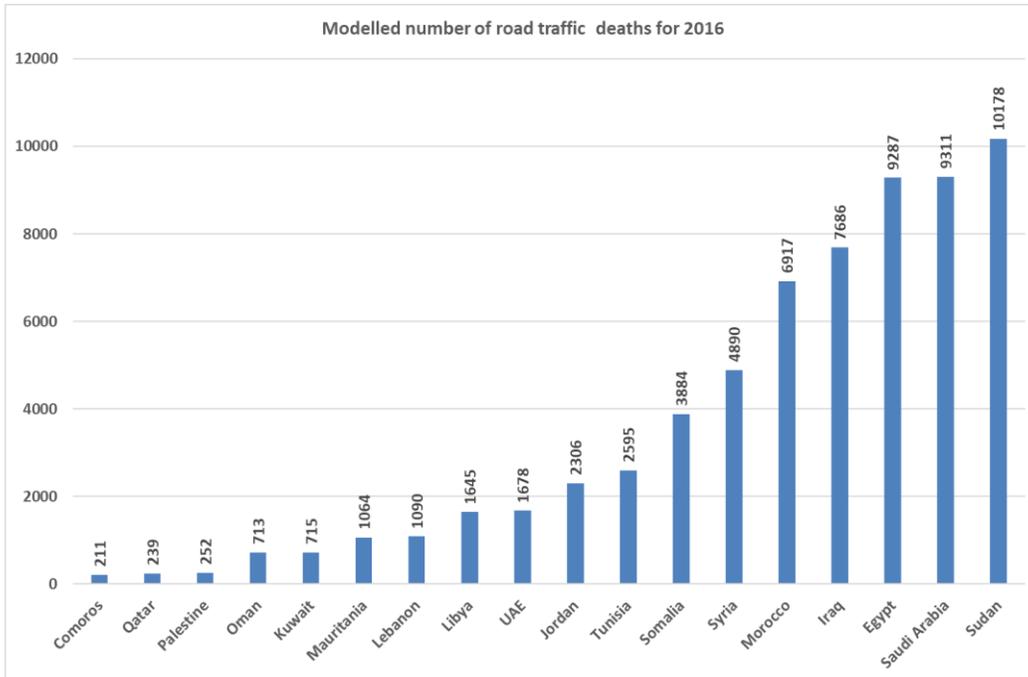
(Extracts from WHO Global Status Report on Road Safety 2018<sup>1</sup>):

- A- The top five countries according to the reported number of fatalities due to road traffic in 2016 are: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, Libya



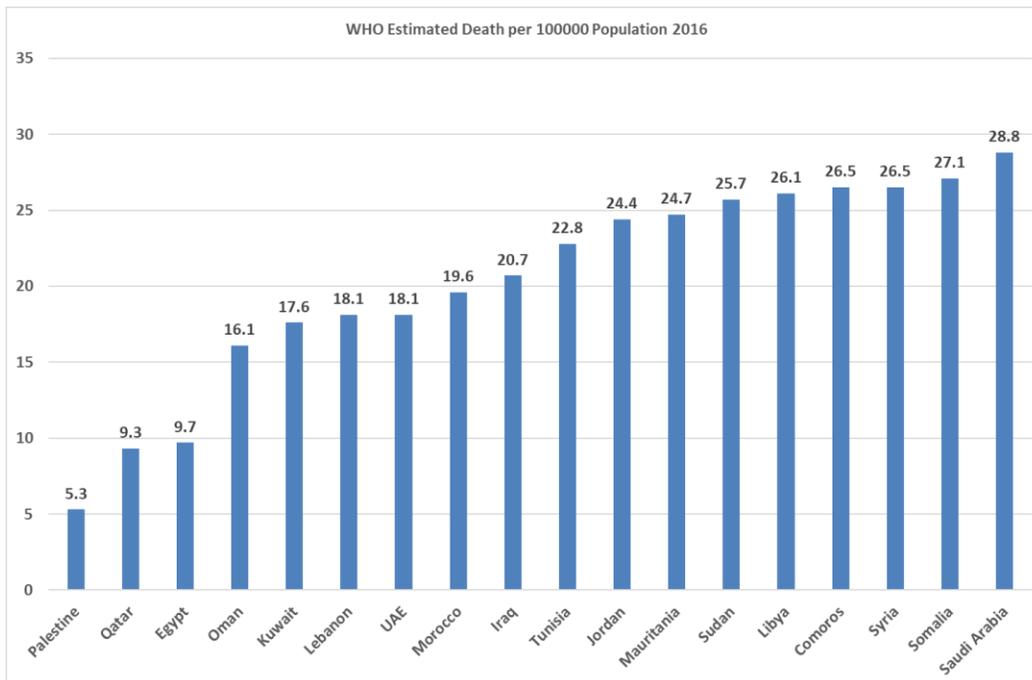
- B- The top five countries according to WHO modelled number of fatalities due to road traffic in 2016 are: Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iraq and Morocco.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/road\\_safety\\_status/2018/en/](https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/road_safety_status/2018/en/)



Thus, in terms of absolute number of fatalities due to road traffic, four ESCWA Member States remain within the top five risky countries, either depending on data reported by the countries or on WHO estimates. Those are: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iraq and Morocco.

- C- The top five countries according to the WHO estimated death per 100,000 population in 2016 are: Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syria, Comoros, Libya.



Considering the indicator of WHO estimated rate of fatalities per 100,000 population, Saudi Arabia remains as the most unsafe country in the Arab region. The other countries in the top five should be

considered with caution, as three of them are subject to conflicts: Somalia, Syria and Libya, while the fifth country, Comoros, is a small country with only 23 and 211 reported and estimated numbers of fatalities respectively.

## **II- Findings of the Survey on Road Safety Management Systems in ESCWA Region:**

ESCWA, in cooperation with Saint-Joseph University in Beirut (USJ), has conducted a survey between August and November 2018 on the status of road safety management and data in ESCWA Member States<sup>2</sup>.

11 out of 18 ESCWA Member States replied to the questions on the existence of the following elements of National Systems for Road Safety Management:

- Higher Council headed by the chief of the government.
- National Committee headed by the Minister in charge of road safety.
- Lead Agency, dedicated to road safety planning, coordination and follow up activities.
- National Observatory dedicated to the production and analysis of road safety data.
- National Strategy to improve road safety

Country	Higher Council	National Committee	Lead Agency	Observatory	Strategy
Bahrain					
Egypt					
Iraq	No	Yes	No	No	No
Jordan	No	No	No	No	Yes
Kuwait	No	No	No	No	Yes
Lebanon	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Libya					
Mauritania					
Morocco	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Oman	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Palestine	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Qatar	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Saudi Arabia					
Sudan	Yes				Yes
Syrian Ar. Repub.	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Tunisia	No	Yes	No	Yes	NO
United Ar. Emirates					
Yemen					
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>

<sup>2</sup> ESCWA covers 18 countries out of the 22 countries of the League of Arab States (LAS), they are: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

The findings reveal that while seven countries claim having a national strategy to improve road safety, only two countries claim having a kind of national road safety observatory, which is a must for the production of comprehensive and reliable data informing on the characteristics of the problem of road safety in the country depending on which the country would elaborate effective, efficient and evidence based policies, strategies and action plans.

Out of the seven countries claiming having a national strategy for road safety, only Palestine provided ESCWA with the document of the strategy (In Arabic, Attached). Jordan Strategy for Road Safety 2019-2023 was downloaded from the site of the Jordan Ministry of Transport<sup>3</sup> and attached.

**III- summary of the contents of each of Jordan and Palestine Road Safety Strategies:**

A- Jordan Strategic Plan for Road Safety 2019-2023:

This is a 25 pages document prepared by Jordan Ministry of Transport late 2018 and posted on the Ministry website on 7 March 2019.

The document starts with an analysis of the past evolution of road safety in Jordan and the presentation of the main features of the problem based on 2017 data.

The main strategic goal is the reduction of the rate of “fatalities and severe injuries” due to road crashes by 20% within five years (Annual reduction by 4%).

The strategy unfolds under seven axes.

The executive plan for the strategy is presented as a Matrix. For each axis, the matrix provides four columns: 1. Strategic targets, 2. Activities, 3. Assignments among public authorities, 4. Timespan of the activities through 2019-2023.

The main axes and their strategic targets are formulated as following:

Strategic Axis	Strategic Targets
Legislation and enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improving the legislation to enhance road safety</li> <li>- Enhancing the control of drivers</li> </ul>
Engineering and traffic management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessing and upgrading road network to improve its safety</li> <li>- Providing for the safety of pedestrians, elder people and people with special needs</li> <li>- Applying technical specifications on roads</li> <li>- Integration of urban planning and land use with transport planning</li> <li>- Reducing the use of private cars</li> </ul>
Safety of vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increasing the safety level of vehicles and encouraging the provision of safety features in imported vehicles</li> </ul>
Data, information and studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing data and information on road safety</li> <li>- Enhancing the role of scientific research and supporting research related to road safety</li> </ul>
Rescue and hospitalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhancing active post-crash response</li> <li>- Addressing severity of road crash injuries</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.mot.gov.jo/>

	- Providing optimal services for injuries in hospital emergencies and medical centers
Education, Training and Awareness	- Increasing awareness and traffic culture among road users - Enhancing drivers' commitment to road safety and awareness of traffic risks and first-aid
Management and coordination	- Adopting pro-active management and enhancing coordination to improve road safety

#### B- Palestine Strategy for Road Safety:

This is a 4 pages document, prepared as being the work plan of the "Traffic Higher Council", which is the entity in charge of road safety at the Ministry of Transport and Communication in Palestine.

The document is edited as a 4 columns Matrix: Strategic Targets, Sub-Targets, Activities, Outcomes.

Only one Strategic Target is presented consisting on providing safe traffic environment, to which 26 sub-targets are associated, covering wide range of road safety issues like data collection and analysis, awareness campaigns, identification and treatments of black spots, road traffic control and management, etc.

#### **IV- ESCWA Performance Reviews:**

Concerning road safety performance reviews, ESCWA has prepared two documents briefing on the status of Road Safety in Lebanon and in Jordan as supporting documents for the meetings with high ranking officials in these countries of Mr. Jean Todt, the UNSG's Special Envoy for Road Safety (Attached).

#### **V- Regional Priorities for Road Safety Management in the Arab Countries:**

The UNSG's Special Envoy for Road Safety, Mr. Jean Todt, has supported ESCWA in the implementation of a regional workshop on road safety management in the Arab countries<sup>4</sup>. The workshop was implemented in Beirut from 27 to 28 November 2018 in cooperation with the World Bank and UNECE. The workshop was attended by representatives of Ministries of Transport and of Interior in ESCWA region in addition to Algeria. The workshop ended by the adoption of the following list of Regional Priorities for Road Safety Management 2019-2020:

	<b>Components</b>	<b>Priorities</b>	<b>International Support</b>
1	National Strategies and Action Plans	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement or activate national Systems for road safety management, including national lead agencies and coordination mechanisms</li> <li>2. If no national committee on road safety, develop working relationships with colleagues in relevant ministries</li> <li>3. Develop and implement action plans</li> </ol>	ESCWA EuroMed Transport Support Project World Bank IsDB  Good practices from other regions (i.e. EU)

<sup>4</sup><https://www.unescwa.org/events/road-safety-management-arab-countries>

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Update/Adjust action plans</li> <li>5. National level partnerships (i.e. public private partnerships)</li> </ol>	
2	Strengthening Regulatory Framework	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Accession to six UN RS conventions</li> <li>2. Implementation of six UN R.S. conventions</li> </ol>	Technical assistance (UNECE + ESCWA + Special Envoy) EuroMed Transport Support Project World Bank IRU IsDB
3	Road Safety Data	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Initiate collaboration between vital registration colleagues, transport, police, interior and health sectors</li> <li>2. Strengthen basic registries such as vehicles, drivers, enforcement (tickets issued)</li> <li>3. Consider establishing a Regional Observatory that coordinates and facilitates national data improvements, for example: crash investigation</li> </ol>	ESCWA FIA + World Bank +ITF WHO EuroMed Transport Support Project IsDB AULT
4	Networking and Partnerships	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facilitate knowledge sharing between experts, academia and research institutes, and Member States</li> <li>2. Support identification of funding sources</li> </ol>	ESCWA

#### **IV- UNRSTF suggested priorities for funding in ESCWA Region:**

In consultation with the representative of ESCWA region in the Advisory Board of the UNRSTF, Professor Ramzi Salame, Executive Director of the National Road Safety Council in Lebanon, the funding priorities of the UNRSTF to the ESCWA region during 2020-2021 could be formulated as follows:

- To support the improvement of the actions related to data collection and analysis as a basis for the formulation and implementation of evidence-based road safety policies, strategies and action plans. Focus is to be put on the establishment of an Arab Regional Road Safety Observatory as a platform ensuring the reliability of crash data collection and analysis, their compliance with international best practices, and their homogeneity and comparability across the region, and thereof to support the establishment of national observatories along the same lines.
- To support the development of road safety national strategies and Master Plans, and review, update or adjust existing action plans in low and middle income countries, in compliance with the UN Plan of action for road safety 2011-2020 and the road safety related SDGs (3.6 and 11.2).
- To support the building of national capacities in ESCWA Member States in road safety management to trigger sustainable national funding to address road safety issues in a comprehensive, efficient and effective way.

**V- Attachments:**

- Strategic Road Safety Plan of the Palestinian High Traffic Council (In Arabic)
- Jordan Strategy for Road Safety 2019-2023 (In Arabic).
- Review of Road Safety in Lebanon. Document presented by ESCWA at Lebanon UNCT meeting with Mr. Jean Todt, UNSG's Special Envoy for Road Safety. Beirut, 16 February 2017.
- Road Safety in Jordan: Background Information. Prepared by ESCWA as support document of the mission of UNSG's Special Envoy for Road Safety to Amman, Jordan, 27-29 January 2019.