



Road Safety

With Fredrick Mubanga



ZAMBIA'S ROAD SAFETY OUTLOOK BRIGHT:

Moving towards reducing traffic accidents by 50pc by 2030

ROAD Traffic Injuries (RTIs) are the eighth cause of death in the world and an estimated 1.35 million people die every year on the world's roads.

The highest number of deaths occurs on the African continent, i.e. a rate of 26.6 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants. A recent study found that the rate could be closer to 65 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants. Economically, the average annual socio-economic cost of road traffic crashes represents three percent of Gross National Product (GNP) in low-income countries.

For Zambia, the road traffic accidents and fatalities trends from 2012 to 2020, indicates that the number of fatalities per 100,000 populations has shown a steady decline from 17 fatalities per 100,000 population recorded in 2012 to nine fatalities per 100,000 population recorded in 2020.

The country has continued to record a decline in the number of road traffic crashes and deaths from 2015 to 2020. In 2020, Zambia recorded 28,484 road traffic accidents as compared to 30,648 representing a reduction of 7.1 percent. Fur-

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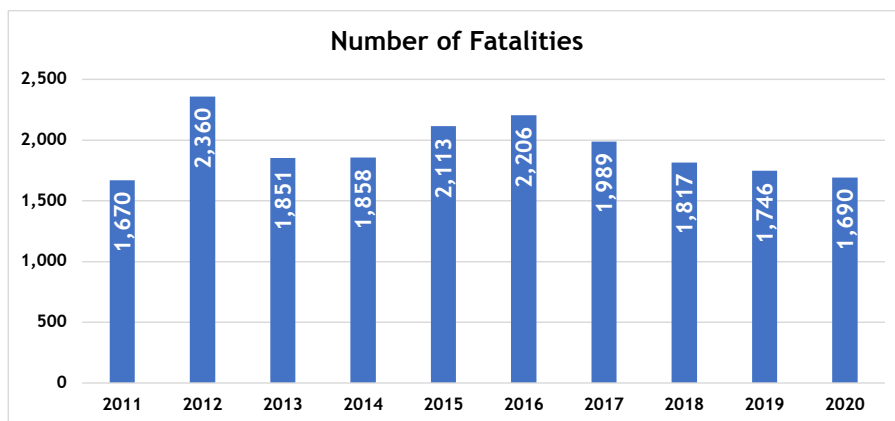
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TO ACHIEVE

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Road Safety conference.

Going forward, the shift is towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To keep up the activities of this ten-year period of road safety,



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(number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents) and 11.2 (improving road safety) have one of the most "indivisible" interactions among all the SDGs according to a recent report of experts.

To reach this 3.6 target, and looking beyond interventions on infrastructures, the effectiveness of which is understood, interventions must be conducted in the fields of awareness-raising, provision of rescue services and also public policies and regulations

which contribute to the reduction in accidents and their impact on health.

Interventions in Zambia are concerned with road improvement, speed control, legislation and an increase in traffic law enforcement. More attention should be paid to the needs of the pedestrians, pedal cyclists and motorcyclists who make the majority of the road traffic fatalities in Zambia

To achieve more with less, the RTSA intends to adopt SMART enforcement and leverage on technology to increase its coverage throughout the country. Collaboration with stakeholders is also key in delivering the mandate of road safety education and advocating for remedial engineering and maintenance on roads.

A proactive rather than a reactive approach will be spearheaded on Traffic Management in cooperation with Zambia Police and all road safety stakeholders including drivers, motor vehicle owners, pedestrians, cyclists and motor cyclists.

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