

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP, MENA



Date started: 2008 **Date finished:** On-going

Partners: Qatari Ministry of Interior, UN ESCWA, Shell, GRSP

Cost/time/resources: 114,000 USD supported by Qatari Ministry of Interior, UN ESCWA, and Shell



The creation of a regional road safety partnership in the Middle East and North African region (MENA) shows there is now more momentum behind road safety than ever before. The partnership launched in Doha, Qatar in October 2008 is the result of close collaboration between GRSP and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA). Working together on a number of workshops in the region aimed to assess the road-safety situation, raise awareness and promote good

practices have led to this increased interest, and wish for collaboration in partnership by the 13 member countries. This partnership is the first ever of its kind in the region.

Summary project sheet.

Objectives and scope

One of the main objectives of the UNESCWA road-safety workshop in Doha, Qatar was to initiate a regional Road Safety Partnership, which would act as a road-safety "center of excellence" that would facilitate the sharing of knowledge and synchronize road safety efforts throughout the region. Workshop participants were decision-makers, professionals, and road-safety advocates representing all sectors. Presentations and discussions focused on identifying needs to improve road safety, as well as what added value a regional partnership could bring to address these needs.

Activities

The major outcome was "The Doha Declaration," in which participants called for a series of key actions:

- A regional road-safety partnership will be established for countries in the Middle East and North African Region (MENA) with members from the governments, businesses, and non-governmental organizations.
- A task force representing the different sectors will be formed to work on the details of the Partnership within six months. UN ESCWA, GRSP, and Shell will support and facilitate the work of the task force through a secretariat.
- The task force will validate a name for the Partnership and communicate with those interested regularly through the secretariat.
- Suggested potential projects will be prioritized and members will be invited to partner in preferred projects.
- Members are invited to initiate national road safety partnerships.

Currently, the established Task Force is reviewing the constitutional part of the partnership, its objectives, structure and activities. In parallel, the secretariat formed by ESCWA, Shell and GRSP is looking into various projects that were part of the workshop's outcomes, and that would later on be endorsed by the partnership.

Conclusion and main lessons learnt

The launch of the Middle East and North Africa Road Safety Partnership is a big step for the region. Amid instability in the region, some countries have already achieved much in terms of road safety. The strength of having these countries in the partnership is that good practices will be easily promoted and shared. Also, richer countries are willing to assist poorer ones through partnerships. Although the partnership is still in its early stages, there is now more momentum behind road safety efforts than ever before.

Quote: Bassam Anani, UN ESCWA

"Road safety is clearly an issue of governmental, public and business concern. By working in a broad partnership, we hope that many of the 'needs' can be addressed efficiently using existing approaches or materials."